

CANNOCK CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 23, 2014

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Page 99



Probe on alleged assault at fire base

A FIREFIGHTER was airlifted to hospital after allegedly being attacked at his station.

An internal investigation has been launched after paramedics were called out to Rugeley Fire Station to treat a 50-year-old firefighter who had back injuries.

Western Service Delivery Group lead for Staffordshire Fire, Ian Sloss, said: "An incident occurred on Friday at Rugeley Fire Station and one member of staff was taken to hospital.

"They were discharged later that day. A full investigation into what occurred is now taking place."

Injury

Staffordshire Police spokesman Hazel Dockery said the force had been informed of an alleged assault at the Bryans Lane station.

She added: "The man sustained a back injury and was taken to University Hospital North Staffordshire. He was later discharged."

West Midlands Ambulance spokesman Chris Kowalik was unable to give details of the man's injuries, but confirmed crews were called to the scene.

"West Midlands Ambulance Service can confirm it was called to Rugeley Fire Station shortly after 3.15pm Friday, January 17," said Mr Kowalik.

Horse stuck in river dies

A HORSE died after it got stuck in a river. More than 20 firefighters were called to Bancroft Lane in Nether-ton, Rugeley on Monday afternoon.

They used a harness to pull the 14-year-old animal free from the mud and then a boat was used to ferry the horse across the river to safety, but it later died.

Crews from Lichfield, Cannock and Tamworth attended the scene just after 3.20pm.

RESIGN CALL TO MP OVER NAZI OUTFIT

Twitter under fire over Collymore abuse



Former Aston Villa and England striker Stan Collymore, now a pundit, has been subjected to abuse on Twitter

POLICE say they are investigating death threats posted to football pundit Stan Collymore. But the former Aston Villa and England player has accused Twitter of not doing enough following the vile abuse he received on the social media site.

Collymore, of Cannock, sparked a backlash after he suggested Liverpool striker Luis Suarez dived to win a penalty on Saturday.

He has since been racially abused and received death threats on Twitter. Collymore has named and shamed the internet trolls by retweeting some of the abuse to his 503,000 followers.

During an interview yesterday (Wednesday), Collymore, aged 43, said:

"It's quite horrible. Today is my birthday and I would rather not be here." He called for the social media website to take action and added: "I've been on it six years now and it is a fantastic tool to engage. I should not be racially abused for it. This is just sheer lunacy."

Fantastic

Collymore said Staffordshire Police were taking his complaints seriously but Twitter 'aren't interested'.

He tweeted: "Several Police forces have been fantastic. Twitter haven't. Dismayed." He added: "Staffordshire Police coming, again. Just the fifth time. Pity Twitter aren't interested."

A Twitter spokesman said the company was unable to comment on individual users but targeted abuse was against its rules.

Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis described the abuse as 'abhorrent' and says he will be urging officers to take the investigation 'as far as possible'.

Cannock Councillor Janos Toth also called for a tough stance on the culprits.

He said: "I feel our community needs to stand up to these racists."

"I call on Staffordshire Police to find these people and take tough action including custodial sentences if appropriate."

by Daniel Wainwright

POLITICAL rival Janos Toth has called on Chase MP Aidan Burley to resign after it was confirmed he bought the costume for a Nazi-themed stag party.

Mr Burley has apologised again for attending the party in the French ski resort of Val Thorens in December 2011 where the bridegroom, Mark Fournier, wore an SS uniform.

But Cannock Chase Prospective Labour candidate Janos Toth said: "It is now clear that he was actually at the centre of events and this would be at odds with his apology claiming he failed to walk away from the party when he realised what was happening."

"Residents in Cannock Chase demand better and want a Member of Parliament with integrity who behaves appropriately."

"Mr Burley should consider his position, finally do the right thing and go."

Actions

Mr Fournier was this week sentenced in France, where wearing a Nazi uniform is a crime, and was made to pay a £1,200 fine and £800 to an organisation representing families of Holocaust victims.

The Tory party investigated Mr Burley's actions at the time but held off publishing the report so it did not interfere with the French authorities' own investigations. Neither Mr Burley nor the 10 other guests faced any charges.

The report, led by Lord David Gold, confirmed that 'as best man, Mr Burley purchased the costume alongside the flights and other costs associated with the trip on behalf of the other attendees'.

Mr Burley said: "I admitted it to the Conservative



Chase MP Aidan Burley

party. I was the best man and I had duties including booking the hotel and the flights. A number of people agreed on what the fancy dress should be and I was tasked with buying it.

"I regret the incident. I apologised then and I apologise again now."

"The outfit was bought legally in London by me as best man and I take responsibility. We did not know that wearing a fancy dress outfit would be illegal in France."

"There was no malicious intent, no ideological motive, no desire to offend."

A Conservative spokesman said: "The party investigated this matter. The findings of that investigation were that Aidan Burley behaved in a manner which was offensive and foolish, and that his behaviour was completely unacceptable."

"He has since apologised publicly and sought to make amends."

Woman and dog attacked on walk

A WOMAN and her dog were viciously attacked by a bull-mastiff while out walking in a park, police have revealed this week.

The 22-year-old victim was walking her border collie on Pye Green Valley in Hednesford when they were both set upon by the dog which had no collar on and was not on a lead.

The woman tried to separate the two animals but ended up getting bitten on her hands and needed treatment at Cannock Hospital.

Her dog was bitten on his neck, ears and face and had to be taken to a vet.

Skinny

The Bullmastiff was with a man and woman, both aged in their late 20s or 30s. The man is described as white, more than 6ft tall with a skinny build.

He was wearing glasses, a beanie-style hat and dark-coloured clothing.

The woman was also white, 5ft 5in tall with a slim build. She was also carrying a Dachshund-type dog.

It happened on Wednesday, January 8 at around 4.15pm at the back of Granary Close, an area known locally as 'The Skelly'.

Witnesses are asked to call Pc Andrea Morris on 101 quoting incident number 464 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Five held on yacht death

FIVE people are being held in custody over the death of a Cannock businessman.

Roger Pratt died defending his wife when attackers boarded their boat in the Caribbean island of St Lucia.

A post mortem revealed Mr Pratt, aged 62, who ran Okra Associates, a financial consultancy firm in Rumer Hill Road, died as a result of being beaten.

Mr Pratt died and his wife Margaret was injured after three armed men climbed onto their yacht on Friday.

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CONTENTS

Letters	8
Around the clubs	13
Memory Lane	16
Focus On . . .	26
Property	31
TV listings	75-77
Puzzle page	78
Motoring	79
Family announcements	89
Sport	98-100

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HS2 petition goes to Downing Street

A LEADING campaigner against HS2 was this week set to deliver a petition to the doors of Number 10 Downing Street.

Trevor Forrester, who co-ordinates Staffordshire Against HS2, was travelling to Whitehall yesterday (Wednesday), joined by opponents to the £50 billion scheme from Yorkshire.

It comes as thousands of people in Staffordshire have signed a petition

calling on the county council to join a national group of local authorities fighting the high speed rail line.

The petition is close to reaching 5,000.

Cannock businessman Mr Forrester said: "Delivering a petition to Number 10 will be very symbolic. In Staffordshire we continue to have momentum in our campaign."

The county council has previously resisted calls to join the group of

authorities which includes Lichfield District and Stafford Borough. But it has earmarked £200,000 to fight HS2 through the law-making stage in parliament.

The line will cut a 45-mile swathe through rural Staffordshire affecting villages around Lichfield, Rugeley and Stafford. Civic leaders at Stafford Borough Council are expected to voice 'deep concern' at the potential impact of the contro-

versial HS2 rail line on the local economy. A meeting of their cabinet today (Thursday) will debate their response to the consultation.

The council's draft response says that HS2 phase one, with its link onto the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre, near Lichfield, creates a 'positive gain' for rail services to and from Stafford.

But they fear this gain will be lost once the phase two goes ahead.

Late bid launched by MP to save town's hospital

A LAST-ditch attempt to save Stafford Hospital has been launched by the town's MP after health watchdog Monitor approved plans to dissolve the trust that runs it.

The move would pave the way for many services to go elsewhere including Wolverhampton and Walsall.

Tories at odds over stripping of services

CANNOCK Chase MP Aidan Burley described Mid Staffordshire Trust as a 'horribly failing organisation' as he and Tory colleague clashed over the future of Stafford Hospital.

As regulators approved proposals to strip it of key services, Mr Burley insisted services should be moved as soon as possible.

Fellow Conservative, Stafford MP Jeremy Lefroy, however, said it was 'vital' that services were kept.

Approved

The £220 million downgrade of both Stafford and Cannock hospitals, recommended by administrators Alan Bloom, Alan Hudson and Professor Hugo Mascie-Taylor, was approved by health regulator Watchdog.

It is now over to Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt to hammer the final nail into the coffin of the troubled trust.

Mr Lefroy said his town needed to keep its maternity, paediatrics and critical care services. However, Mr Burley said: "Mid Staffs Trust was a horribly failing organisation and allowed thousands of unnecessary and painful deaths so no one should lament its passing."

If given the final go ahead by health secretary Jeremy Hunt the changes will see only 1,000 babies a year delivered in a midwife-led maternity unit at the hospital - with riskier births taking place at the neighbouring hospitals.

Very sick children will no longer be treated at the Weston Road site and the A&E centre will be permanently reduced to 14-hour opening. Major surgery and severe emergencies will also be dealt with at neighbouring hospitals.

Essential

But Stafford MP Jeremy Lefroy said: "The Secretary of State has the power to require the administrators to vary their report if he feels it does not meet any of his tests as set down in the legislation, including securing the essential services demanded by local commissioners and offering good value for money."

"I will be doing all I can to make the case for the essential services that are vital for Stafford."

However, Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley argued services should be transferred over to neighbouring trusts including Wolverhampton and Stoke as soon as possible.

"What's needed now is for effective control of Cannock Hospital to be given to Wolverhampton NHS Trust and Stafford to UHNS within a matter of weeks, not months."

"We cannot wait until the summer, yet alone October, for the administrators to finish the job."

Plea made over hero's grave



Military researchers Richard Pursehouse and Lee Dent at George Gough's grave

A WAR hero's headstone has fallen into repair and a military group is leading a campaign to get it restored.

Sapper George Gough died in hospital 150 miles from home after initially surviving the bloody Battle of Loos in the First World War. A bullet in his shoulder had paralysed him from the waist down. He died from his wounds four months later and was buried with full military honours at St James parish church in Norton Canes.

According to local news reports, the whole village turned out for his funeral. A party of Leicester Regiment soldiers from the nearby Rugeley camp fired a salute over his grave.

Now local military history group The Chase Project, which uncovered the Messines model on Cannock Chase, are pleading for the headstone to be restored.

Richard Pursehouse and Lee Dent would like the family grave taken over by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

(CWGC). The marble cross has been broken from its base and they found the fallen headstone of a neighbouring grave lying across it.

The pair want Sapper Gough's relatives to come forward so they can ask their permission to make any changes.

Mr Pursehouse, of Wootton Court, Cannock, said: "Having found out who he was and how he died, we thought it would be fitting for him to have a military grave. To see the grave in this condition is very sad."

Ropeman

Sapper Gough, a driver with the 2nd North Midland Field Company, was the youngest son of John and Eliza Gough, of Hedgesford Road, Norton Canes. He worked as a ropeman in Cannock's Conduit Colliery before volunteering for France and had two older brothers, William and John.

Anyone with information can contact Richard and Lee at thechaseproject@gmail.com

Council in row over running of theatre

A ROW broke out at a finance meeting of Rugeley Town Council over the running of the town's theatre.

The Conservative-led town council proposed to bring the running of the Rose Theatre 'in-house' in an attempt to save around £14,000.

Currently, management of the theatre is outsourced to Starlite Events Ltd but it was suggested that town clerk Naazlin Somani, assistant clerk Rebecca Mason, along with a new assistant, take on the responsibility.

The proposal, which formed part of the authority's budget setting, sparked a long debate.

Councillor Pat Williams, who chairs the Rose Theatre committee, was outraged that she was not consulted while Councillor Neil Stanley questioned how the town council administration team could run the theatre alongside their existing jobs.

The committee rejected the proposal but a final decision on the budget will be taken by the authority in February.

Trust passes a milestone

STAFFORDSHIRE Wildlife Trust has passed a major milestone in the number of species recorded on its nature reserves.

Staff and volunteers have collected more than 100,000 individual wildlife and plant sightings - including all mammals, birds, invertebrates, plants and fungi - on their 26 reserves, totalling 4,850 different species so far.

Monitoring officer Scott Petrek said: "Data from our various surveys carried out last year means we have now got 101,672 separate sightings since our records began."

"These records allow us to build a better picture of the wildlife on our nature reserves to inform our management plans."

Support group

A PARKINSON'S support group is meeting next Monday, January 27. Guest speakers at the Aquarius Ballroom in Victoria Street, Hednesford, include nurses Annette Logan and Linda Prendergast from 7.30-9pm. Anyone interested, call Geoff Chandler on 01543 425819 or 07900 924206.

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Future of NHS is in spotlight

PATIENTS and members of the public are being asked to help shape vital NHS services across Cannock Chase.

"Call to Action" meetings are being held in the district. They are being organised jointly by the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

Call to Action is a national programme of engagement designed to allow everyone to contribute to the debate about the future of health and care provision. It will allow CCGs to plan the services which they commission that are delivered in hospitals and in the community.

Dr Johnny McMahon, chairman of Cannock Chase CCG: "This is part of a national debate to make the NHS fit for the future. We need to focus on what is best for the residents of Cannock Chase."

Meetings are being held at Lea Hall Working Men's Club, Sandy Lane, Rugeley, from 1-3pm and 6-8pm on Wednesday, January 29 and at St Luke's Church, Cannock, from 10am to 1pm on Saturday, February 8.

People who register in advance to attend the meetings will receive additional information. They are asked to e-mail jess.wood@northstaffs.nhs.uk or call 01543 509750.

Upgrade at fitness club

A CANNOCK gym is to be upgraded as part of a major investment over the next three years. Fitness First in Walkmill Lane, Bridgtown, will get the revamp.

The chain is spending £225 million worldwide and all 82 UK clubs will benefit from £45m being spent on improving staff qualifications, new technology and services. The first 34 clubs will be completed this year with the rest by 2016.

Chief executive Andy Cosslett said: "Our £225m investment is a statement of how serious we are about rewriting the rules of the fitness industry."

Great War parade

A PARADE of current and veteran soldiers will take place through Cannock to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. It has been organised by the Hedgesford Branch of The Staffordshire Regimental Association and takes place on Saturday, August 2. It will end with a service at the memorial in the town centre.

Funds award to project tackling hate crime



Voluntary Cadet instructor PC Julie Lovatt, Chase Against Crimes of Hate co-ordinator Anna McLauchlan, Cadets Bethany Fletcher and Chloe Taylor, PCC Matthew Ellis and cadets Charlie Walker and Hannah Atherden

AN organisation that tackles hate crime has been awarded £12,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Proceeds of Crime Fund.

Chase Against Crimes of Hate (CACH), which covers Stafford, South Staffordshire and Cannock, provides support to victims at their base in Stafford Borough Council's offices or in a more personal environment, such as a victim's home.

In September 2013, CACH won a National Diversity Award for the positive work done to tackle hate crime and supporting diversity. The grant will be

used to help fund the service. PCC Matthew Ellis is ensuring that 100 per cent of funding received by Staffordshire Police from proceeds of crime seizures is going back to local communities.

Seized

The Proceeds of Crime Fund, formerly known as the Local Policing Fund, is made up of assets and money seized by police from criminals in Staffordshire under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Mr Ellis said: "Chase Against

Crimes of Hate offers an invaluable service for individuals who suffer from hate crime. This money will help them continue to deliver crucial frontline support to people who really need it."

In the last 12 months, CACH have seen reports of hate crime increase by 246 per cent.

Anna McLauchlan, co-ordinator of CACH said: "This funding will help, not just in supporting victims but also in running information and education programmes which will have a positive and lasting impact on the communities we live in."

Tip can remain in operation for at least 20 more years

A CONTROVERSIAL tip in Cannock will remain open for around another 20 years at least, it has been revealed.

Biffa runs the Poplars Landfill facility which has been plagued by complaints about foul smells since it began operating in 2011.

by Laura Blyth

Bosses this week said there was still space for 5,751,245 tons of waste, which means the facility will stay open for at least another 20 years.

The future of the facility was due to be discussed by Cannock Chase Council's environment policy development committee at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

Representatives from Biffa were not expected to be at the meeting.

Restoration

But a spokesman for the company Julie Fourcade said: "The life of the landfill is void related and is dependent upon the volume of inputs to create the required planned restoration profile of the site."

"We cannot put an end date to the site but would estimate at least another 20 years of operation."

More than 80 families are currently pursuing legal action against Biffa in relation to Poplars Landfill.

Bosses have spent more than £800,000 making

improvements to the £24 million plant, which recycles food waste, in an effort to stop odours affecting the nearby Newlands Park estate.

The improvements the firm has made include extra sealing of all doors, fitting of alarms on personnel doors so that they cannot be left open and improvements in air circulation inside the buildings to prevent a build up of odour.

In a letter sent to the council, Jeff Rhodes, Biffa's company planning and permitting manager, says it is difficult to predict when the site will be full, but that the closure of the facility was 'clearly a long way off'.

Between 350,000 and 500,000 tons of waste is taken to the site each year.

In the past there have been calls for the controversial waste plant to be closed down.

But the calls were rejected by the Environment Agency, who said the bad smells were short lived and relatively faint.

Solar panels a success

SOLAR panels could be installed at hundreds of council homes in Cannock Chase after a pilot project was deemed a success. Panels were fitted at 39 council-owned bungalows in Norton Canes last year by the district council. Residents have reported large savings on their bills and bosses say they now hope to secure funding to expand the programme. Southern Staffordshire Community Energy was given the go-ahead to take on an initial project for up to 300 homes by Cannock's Housing Policy Development Committee. It is thought around 1,300 homes could be eligible for the work.



387 Veterinary Centre owner Hamish Duncan with donations of cat and dog food

Stunning response after pet food plea

A GREAT Wyrley vet says he was amazed by the response to an appeal to a 'Give a pet a dinner this Christmas'.

The campaign was introduced for the first time by 387 Veterinary Centre to support homeless companion pets being cared for by two local animal charities.

The Walsall Road vets collected more than 100 tins of dog food, 150 sachets of cat food and 11 and half stone of dried food and treats.

Vet and practice owner Hamish Duncan said: "We invited clients and the public to donate wet and dry pet food, to help feed injured or abandoned cats needing new homes and dogs in kennels waiting for a new family."

"We were stunned by the volume of pet food put into our Christmas collection bin. We certainly never expected to fill four of the nine kennels in our cat ward with so much Christmas cheer."

Donations have been collected by Sunnyside Kennels in Coven and the Cannock branch of Cats Protection.

For more information about these two animal charities, visit www.cats.org.uk and www.birminghamsdogs.home.org.uk

NEWS

in brief

Spiritual readings on offer at church

SPIRITUAL readings take place at Heath Hayes Spiritual Church, the Cabin, Hedgesford Road this weekend.

A 30-minute reading between 10am and noon and from 1-4pm on Saturday, January 25, costs £12.

Call Joyce on 01543 579755 or 07773 398492.

The church is also holding an 'Evening of Clairvoyance' on Wednesday, February 26 at Green Heath Working Men's Club, Hedgesford. Admission is by ticket only at £10, to include a buffet.

Join in with big bird watch event

MUSEUM visitors can join in with the Big Bird Watch 2014 this weekend.

The Museum of Cannock Chase, in Valley Road, Hedgesford, is staging its own Big Garden Bird Watch Event on Sunday January 26, from 11am to 3pm. Activities include a crafty bird-making drop-in art workshop with the RSPB and bird discovery walks led by Lichfield and District RSPB. Binoculars and scopes will be available to use. Call 01543 877 666 for more details.

Hoard update at history meeting

COUNTY archaeologist Steven Dean will give a talk on the latest developments of the Staffordshire Hoard next week.

He will address Cheslyn Hay & District Local History Society on Thursday, January 30.

The meeting is at the Salem, High Street, Cheslyn Hay, from 7.30pm. Admission is £1 including refreshments.

New beginners' art class to start

A NEW art course for beginners in portraits takes place on Tuesdays in Great Wyrley. Brenda Jenkins is running the course at the community centre, Landwood Lane, from 10am to midday.

Cost for the course, featuring around eight lessons, is £40. Own paint must be supplied. To book a place call 01922 418662.

Labour candidate

LABOUR Party members have selected Chris Worsey to stand as their Parliamentary candidate for the next General Election in the Lichfield and Burntwood constituency currently held by Michael Fabricant.



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NEWS

THE BEST
OF PETER
RHODES

A FRIEND dropped in with the January glow that comes of being on the latest diet. This time it's the 4:3 diet which involves eating a lot on four days and a little on the other three. Or maybe the other way around. It hardly matters because, by the time this appears in print, there will probably be an even newer, better diet which instantly relegates all previous diets to the dustbin. All science changes its mind from time to time but nothing changes faster than the science of humans trying to lose weight. Apart, of course, from the science of climate change.

□□□□□□□□

IN A landmark case, an Afghan man has been granted asylum in Britain because he has renounced Islam to become an atheist. He fears he would be killed if he returned to his homeland. After Fusilier Lee Rigby was murdered on the streets of Woolwich, what makes him think he's any safer in England than in Kabul?

□□□□□□□□

A READER writes: "Yesterday I accidentally drove over Dave while getting into the car." Turns out Dave was the name of the sat-nav which had served him and his wife loyally for 10 years. They miss his voice. He wonders whether other readers give their sat-navs names.

□□□□□□□□

REMEMBER how superior the French used to be about unfaithful politicians? Oh, you English, they would snigger. You take ze adultery so seriously. We're in France are so romantic, so sophisticated and so laid-back zat we 'ardly even take notice of such amours. And then their President Hollande has a liaison with an actress and all hell breaks loose. He starts whining about privacy and threatens to sue the magazine which broke the story (scratch a liberal, find a fascist). His previous mistress, the First Lady of France, is admitted to hospital with a Gallic condition described as "un petit coup de blues". Not so laid-back after all, are they? Adultery hurts the sophisticated French just as much as it hurts Brits. The difference is that when British politicians are caught in the wrong bed, they don't shoot the messenger. They accept public ridicule as part of the price they pay for living in a democracy. And their spouses, gawd bless 'em, adopt a Churchillian stoicism for the cameras, maintain their dignity and would never dream of rushing off to hospital. The Bulldog Breed doesn't do privacy. And it certainly doesn't do the blues.

□□□□□□□□

AND to those clots who say a politician's sex life is a private matter, do explain how a president scuttling around Paris on a scooter like a lovesick 20-year-old can be fully focused on serving his country.

□□□□□□□□

HERE'S something that could never possibly happen in a democracy. You get a demand to pay £145.50 towards somebody else's pension. If you don't pay you will get a criminal record and could end up in prison. It is happening. The BBC is taking £740 million of TV licence payers' money to help plug a £2 billion hole in its pension fund. The equivalent of five million viewers' fees will be spent not on making programmes but to ensure BBC employees spend their retirement in rather more comfort than most of us can expect.

□□□□□□□□

SO what do the following countries have in common: Australia, New Zealand, Finland, Hungary, Iceland and Holland? They're among the 14 countries in the world which once had TV licences but had the good sense to scrap them. The sooner we do the same, the better.

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ED MILIBAND, writing in that Tory bible the Daily Telegraph, says he will "rebuild our middle class." So who's looking after the proletariat these days? How does that old song go: "The working class can kiss..."

□□□□□□□□

AND if Miliband can build new homes, cut the gas bill, create real graduate jobs and make us all more prosperous now, why didn't he do it when he was in power?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Relaxation course to get under way

A REGULAR meditation and relaxation class run by life coach Kate Young starts next month.

The sessions get under way on Monday, February 10, from 7-8pm at the Holistic Hut, 25 Albion Street, Rugeley. The cost of the class is £5.

Kate, a qualified life coach, said: "We live in a hectic world and I want to offer people some precious quiet time to switch off, reflect and enjoy peace."

She said the benefits of regular relaxation and meditation were well documented and included the relief from stress and anxiety, improved sleep, better focus and concentration.

It can help improve physical problems too such as tension, high blood pressure, pain and irritable bowel syndrome.

Each session will start with a mini workshop exploring key topics such as

how to get a better night's sleep, or how stick to those New Year resolutions.

For a flavour of what the classes have to offer, Kate is offering a free MP3 meditation recording. Simply visit www.kateyoungcoaching.co.uk/contact and complete the contact form.

For further information, contact Kate on 01889 802732 or 07816 837966 or email her at kate@kateyoungcoaching.co.uk



Life coach Kate Young

Driver is in court on death of baby

A MOTORIST has appeared in court charged with causing the death of a baby following a crash on the M6.

Tommy Fryer, aged 31, was driving a white Mercedes on the M6, near the Cannock turn-off, when he collided with another car containing a mother and her three young children.

The 11-day-old boy Daewood Hewitt, of Milton Road, Cannock, was airlifted to Birmingham's Children's Hospital but died the following day.

The accident on May 26 last year took place on the southbound carriageway, near Hilton Park Services.

The child's mother and two siblings, a girl aged four and an 18-month-old boy, travelling in the family grey Seat Leon, were also taken to hospital but later discharged with minor injuries.

Fryer, of Duncroft Road, Garretts Green, Birmingham, is charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

He appeared before magistrates at Cannock last Wednesday and was sent to Stafford Crown Court for a plea and directions hearing on February 10. Unconditional bail was extended.

Quiz to aid Paul's Fund

A QUIZ night in aid of Paul's Fun Fund takes place next month.

The fund was set up following the death from leukaemia of Paul Lee-Davis, of Willenhall at the age of 37 in November 2011. It provides treats and days out for young adult patients at the haematology unit at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

The quiz takes place on Saturday, February 22 from 8pm at the Fingerpost pub in Lime Lane, Pelsall.

Admission is £5 each for teams of four-to-six. A light supper will be included. To register a place, email canockp@yahoo.co.uk or call 07881 521038.

Talk about birds

THE FRIENDS of Etching Hill hosts a talk by Phil Ward on the birds of the British Isles next month. It takes place on Thursday, February 27 at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mount Road.

Annual transport show given new lease of life

A MAJOR classic car show that annually attracts thousands of people has been saved from the scrapheap and will be resurrected at a new venue.

The former Chasewater Transport Show, which draws crowds of up to 10,000, was axed last year after a change of management at Chasewater Country Park.

But organisers said it would now be held at Longford Park, a privately-owned site in Cannock, over two days instead of one in April. Delighted organiser Helen Borton said: "It's wonderful news."

"I was devastated when it all folded. Now it's coming back bigger than ever."

Fireworks

The new lease of life for the show was made possible after she was contacted by Longford Park owner Robert Fellows. The site, in Wellington Drive, is popular as a venue for car boot sales and an annual fireworks event.

To reflect the switch in location, the event has been renamed The Chase Transport Show.

Another change is that an entry fee will be made for the first time. Visitors will be charged £3 a head on Saturday and £5 on Sunday, with under-14s admitted free.

Ms Borton, of Cannock, has run the show since 2009 after a similar one at the

byline style

country park was stopped. But last year the venue was taken over by Staffordshire County Council from Lichfield District Council, leaving the show with an uncertain future.

The 29-year-old vintage car enthusiast said the event had also started to outgrow the reservoir site.

She said: "It may be that we will return there in the future but for now I'm delighted with Longford Park. The main thing is the event has been saved."

Ms Borton will put on the show as part of her new business, Chase Transport Events, instead of staging it as a charity fundraiser.

"It's something I've wanted to do for a long time."

"I've put everything into organising the show for the past five years in my own time and raised a lot of money," she said.

"Now I've given up my day job to run it as a business."

The event will take place over the weekend of April 26 and 27.

Debate over hill future

VILLAGERS are urged to attend an open forum on the future of Etchinghill. The Friends of Etchinghill plans to bring together all the people responsible for managing the hill and the forum is to discuss how to support them in their role and to determine its future.

The meeting takes place on Thursday, April 10 at 7.30pm at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mount Road. A group spokesman said: "We would like a strong representation from people who enjoy using the hill as a recreational area."

It is free to attend and as many people as possible are urged to attend. More details can be found at www.brertonandrugeleyparish.co.uk

Hard hats off to electric trains



Front, Liam Sumpter of Network Rail, with from left, Councillor Doris Grice, Aidan Burley MP, Councillors Mark Winnington, George Adamson and Alan Pearson

POLITICAL leaders have marked the next phase of work in Hedgesford to allow electric train services on the Chase Line. Network Rail will electrify 15 miles of railway between Walsall, Hedgesford and Rugeley Trent Valley.

Company chiefs were joined by Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley, district and town council leaders and London Midland officials for the start of the demolition of the Station Road bridge. It will need to be made

higher to accommodate overhead electric lines needed to run the new trains.

Work on the upgrade is due to be completed by late 2017.

Liam Sumpter, Network Rail area director, said: "Electrification helps to boost capacity, reduce carbon emissions and cut the cost of running the railway."

Mr Burley said: "I am delighted that the machinery is now on site and the project is finally now being delivered."

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PCC says value for money key to policing

POLICE & Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis says getting better value for money is key to maintaining frontline policing in Cannock and Rugeley.

He said dealing with issues like the sale of the former police HQ site – empty since 2010 at a cost of nearly £3 million – are crucial to releasing money into local policing.

The old HQ site was vacated following the decision by the Police Authority to buy new HQ buildings in Weston Road, Stafford.

The PCC replaced the Police Authority in November 2012 and more than halved the bill of almost £1 million a year for the empty site by levelling it in 2013.

Mr Ellis said: "I inherited an immensely complex situation from the Police Authority which had not been moved forward."

"I am frustrated at the amount of money spent on maintaining an empty site which could've instead gone into frontline policing in Cannock, Rugeley and elsewhere."

"My decision to demolish the site has instantly saved almost half a million pounds a year in taxpayers' money and I'm determined to pay down the overall debt and release more money into local policing."

Pancakes and bingo

A RUGELEY church is hosting a Shrove Tuesday pancake party next month.

It takes place from 5.30 to 7.30pm on March 4 at the Church of the Holy Spirit, in Etchinghill.

A range of savoury and sweet pancakes will be served, followed by games of prize bingo. Prices are £5 for adults and £2.50 for under-12s. A family ticket, for two adults and two or more children, costs £12.

Tickets are available from Kathy Smith on 01889 583509 or Sue Whitehouse on 01889 800939.

Nine-mile walk

CHASE & District Group Ramblers head off on a moderate nine-mile walk at Castle Ring, Longdon, & Stoneywell this weekend. Departure time on Sunday (January 26) is Hednesford railway station car park, Anglesey Street, at 9am.

Tackerooo gig for band reunited after 20 years



Sight n Sound, who are staging a reunion concert at the Tackeroo

A LOCAL band is back together after a 20-year break, and will perform a reunion gig in Hednesford next weekend.

Sight n Sound are putting themselves back in the spotlight with a concert at the Tackeroo, in Bracken Close, Brindley Heath, on Saturday, February 1.

The five-piece, fronted by Neil Craddock, toured on the professional circuit all over the UK and Europe from 1965 to 1993 and have now reunited due to public demand. Their repertoire includes

classics from Queen, ELO, Chicago and REO Speedwagon.

Sight n Sound also wrote, recorded and performed their own original material. In 1976 they had a 'radio hit' with their own interpretation of an Orleans song called 'Dance With Me'.

There have been many changes in line-up over the years with bassist and vocalist Craddock being recruited in 1974 to replace Kelly Groucutt, who joined Jeff Lynne in ELO. Guitarist and vocalist Brian Eustace joined in

1976 after working with Craddock in The Mail and The Montanas. Drummer and vocalist Warren Shaw completed the core element of Sight n Sound in 1977.

For the Tackeroo date, the trio will be joined by keyboard player Paul Trappett and guitarist Joe Bartnicki.

Sight n Sound will perform two sets of songs from their back catalogue as well as some a capella vocal treats. The concert starts at 9pm and admission is £6 on the door. Call 01543 423124.

Community hub meeting space on offer to groups

A CHARITY has thrown a lifeline to community groups, voluntary organisations and business start-ups in the Cannock area.

Beacon Centre for the Blind is offering groups or individuals use of a meeting room in its Cannock charity shop as a 'community hub'.

Roadworks lead to bus diversions

TWO bus routes between Cannock and Hednesford will be diverted on weekends for the next two weeks because of roadworks.

Old Fallow Road and Huntington Terrace Road will be shut on Saturdays until February 1.

The affected services are the numbers 31 and 32 from Cannock to Hednesford.

The diversions will be as follows: To Hednesford from Cannock: Bus Station via Ringway, Old Hednesford Road, Hednesford Road, Central Corner, Cannock Road, Arthur Street and Huntington Terrace Road.

To Cannock, buses will travel the normal route to the junction of Huntington Terrace Road and Arthur Street then Arthur Street to Central Corner, Cannock Road, Hednesford Road and Allport Street to Cannock Bus Station.

Drivers will observe all bus stops on diversion routes along with temporary bus stops on Arthur Street near the junction with Huntington Terrace Road.

Regional marketing and communications manager Keith Myatt said: "Arriva Midlands apologise for the inconvenience."

Retail operations manager Tracy Ford said: "As an organisation that exists to support local needs we feel it is important that we work with the community to benefit our neighbourhood."

"We are calling for support groups, craft clubs or voluntary organisations that need a regular meeting space to get in touch."

"We have lots of space, available during trading hours, and we feel certain there are many groups and individuals who could make use of it, in return for a small donation to the charity."

"We operate seven charity shops across the West Midlands and Cannock is one of our largest."

Sewing

"We have a large room on the first floor that would be perfect for meeting or talks, such as for a sports club committee or sewing circle, a book club or maybe even a consulting room for a counsellor or therapist."

Any groups or individuals interested in making use of the 'hub' can call Tracy on 01543 467852 or call in at 18 Market Street, Cannock.

The Beacon Centre for the Blind offers a full range of facilities and support partially sighted people, including a mix of residential, day care and community services. Money raised from the sale of goods at Beacon's shops – and its centre in Sedgley – goes towards supporting people living with a visual impairment.

College ribbon cut after £6m facelift



Aidan Burley cuts the ribbon flanked by chief executive principal Graham Morley and chair of governors Ray Faulkner

CANNOCK Chase MP Aidan Burley officially opened the Cannock campus of South Staffordshire College following a £6m facelift.

The MP was among invited guests and VIPs at the final event in the programme of activities to celebrate its formal re-opening.

The state-of-the-art site, at The Green, was described in the welcoming address by chairman of governors Ray Faulkner as "truly inspiring".

This was a theme continued by chief executive principal Graham Morley as he paid tribute to the contributions of the architects, contractors, site team,

staff and students. The night included a visual presentation delivered on the campus's impressive new video wall and as a surprise package, a 'flashmob' of Performing Arts students gave a song and dance rendition of a number from their forthcoming production 'All Shook Up'.

Resources

VIP tours of the site's new facilities took in some of the highlights of the new resources available to students.

Mr Burley performed the official ribbon-cutting ceremony, flanked by Mr Morley and Mr Faulkner. He paid

tribute to the team at South Staffordshire College and welcomed the opening of the facility as a major benefit for the learners of Cannock Chase.

The Cannock Campus of South Staffordshire College is now actively promoting its new features to all those who want to further their education and their careers.

Among a wide range of courses on offer currently the most popular are motor vehicle, childcare, construction, hairdressing and ICT but full details are available at www.southstaffs.ac.uk

NEWS

in brief

Placement for media students

TWO journalism students from South Staffordshire College have gained work experience with a communications agency as the result of a media relations project.

Lauren Ferguson, aged 17 from Heath Hayes and Chelsea Barber, 16, who is from Tamworth, wrote winning draft press releases following a visit to the Lichfield campus from marketing agency Tregartha Dinnie managing director Lester Dinnie.

Helpers sought for Easter trail

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help run an Easter trail in Rugeley. It takes place on Saturday, April 5 at St Michael's Church, Brereton.

People are needed to take on the role of characters in the story, to lead craft activities, to book in the children or to make tea and coffee on the day.

Two meetings are arranged to make detailed plans. They are at the church on February 24 and March 24 at 7.30pm.

Get crafty in fun day for children

CHILDREN can decorate picture frames, paint glass and make keys rings and jewellery at an activity day in Rugeley next month.

It takes place at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mount Road, Etchinghill from 9am to 3.30pm on Friday, February 21. Activities are suitable for school years two to six.

Cost is £5 a child, or £4 each for two or more siblings. Call 01889 800939.

British Legion's Burns Night fun

GREAT Wyrley Royal British Legion hosts its annual Burns Night celebrations tomorrow night (Friday). It will feature entertainment and a supper and takes place at Harrison's Sports & Social Club in Wharwell Lane, from 8pm.

Tickets are priced at £6 on the door or from chairman John Talbot on 01922 414363.

Talent spotting

TALENT spotters will be out at a golf assessment day for juniors on March 2. The event at Chase Golf Club in Penkridge is aimed at spotting and encouraging young golfers. It is open to boys and girls aged eight to 18. Call 01785 712888.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

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ANDREWS

THIS time last week, I wonder how many people outside the West Midlands football community would have known that West Bromwich Albion were sponsored by property website Zoopla.

But now the Baggies have been ditched by Zoopla following the row about Anelka's hand gesture, all of Britain knows. And probably half of France for that matter.

It's a strange world, this public relations lark. A company spends £3 million on a sponsorship deal with a Premier League football club, and nobody bats an eyelid. It then says it will no longer be sponsoring the same club, and its name (and thus its website address) is at the front of every news bulletin.

Anelka now has to face an FA disciplinary committee, and I have no idea how it will all pan out.

But I think we all know who the winner is...

A FRIEND observes that the controversial Channel 4 series *Benefits Street* is a bit like *Sesame Street*.

"Both programmes have a bloke living out of a bin and people trying to learn the alphabet."

And a big bird, of course.

ANOTHER friend recently renewed her car tax on the official Government website, and once it was all done, they automatically redirected her to the organ donor register.

"Not only have I just given away £175, but all my innards too," she observed.

ED Miliband is calling for the break up of our big banks, saying they have become too powerful and there is a need for more competition.

Too right, it makes you wonder how they ever became so big in the first place.

Some reckon there was this politician chappie, who became concerned when one of the big banks in his own backyard got into trouble, and persuaded another big bank to take it over, creating the biggest bank in the world.

Then when the even bigger bank got into even bigger trouble, he arranged for the taxpayer to step in and nationalise it.

Something about saving the world, he said.

Can't remember his name, but vaguely remember a grumpy Scotsman with a lanky, gawky sidekick.

Wonder what happened to him?



Liam Payne during the X Factor auditions



Liam meets fan Claire Peake in Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Centre



The star shows off some of his tattoos on stage

Is high-flying Liam feeling the pressure?

As more antics involving one of the Black Country's most famous sons – Liam Payne – hit the headlines, ELIZABETH JOYCE looks at the costly price of fame

THE FAME game is a difficult one to play. Certainly those in it may think they have the career that they always dreamed of, millions in the bank and adoring fans – but all of that comes with a price.

The 24-hour glare of the paparazzi, the inability to pop out for a pint of milk without being mobbed, the pressure of being a role model; all of it can take its toll.

And it seems it's the younger stars who feel its effects the most, who can't help but crack a little under the pressure. Concerns have been raised in recent months about Miley Cyrus, Justin Bieber, Rihanna and now our very own Liam Payne.

Just a few years ago, Liam was a normal Wolverhampton lad. He'd go to the Hawthorns to watch his beloved Baggies, enjoy family meals at The Spread Eagle pub in Gailey and get stuck into his studies at Wolverhampton College.

Now, he's in the biggest boyband on the planet, with millions of people around the world watching his every move.

He's gone from living with his mum, dad and sisters in Bushbury to a swanky London skyscraper, where fans camp out each and every day just to get a glimpse of their idol.

He may be only 20 years old, but Liam's days of anonymity are already well and truly over.

And it's something he's clearly struggling to come to terms with, taking to Twitter in the last 24 hours to ask for a bit of peace. "I know my friends have tweeted a lot of pictures of my house the past few days but can people please stop coming and waiting outside," he posted.

"I'd just like to be able to walk outside as everyone does and enjoy time with my friends, not feel bad for not wanting to take a picture. Sorry if



Liam, centre, with his One Direction bandmates Niall, Louis, Zayn and Harry

I've been rude to anyone but I've come to realise if I take one picture more people keep coming everyday."

But, just a few hours after these messages went up to his 15 million-plus Twitter followers, Liam caused even more concern when a picture emerged of him standing on the edge of the balcony of his 34th-floor apartment. While the adoring army of One Directioners have jumped to his

defence, saying he's just acting like a normal 20-year-old lad messing about with his friends, many others have accused him of being irresponsible and reckless.

It may have only been a second out on that ledge but within seconds of the picture being posted online, fans across the globe were talking about it.

Many berated their hero for giving them a scare.

One wrote: "That photo of @Real_Liam_Payne on that balcony really gave me a mini heart attack ... please don't do that again!"

While another tweeted: "@Real_Liam_Payne should stop thinking he's Batman, when he's not ... Stop climbing on your balcony!"

The photo was posted by one of his friends but has since been deleted. Should Liam have known better? Should his friends? Is there ever a right answer in the fame game?

It often seems the only way stars learn, is the hard way.

Dangerous

Whether he likes it or not, Liam's a role model now and, sure enough – more than likely encouraged by management obsessed with preserving the 1D brand – he posted an apology, admitting it was "stupid and extremely dangerous".

That night, he was hosting three of his old friends from Wolverhampton, showing them the sights and sounds of London and clubs such as Funky Buddha – in that respect, he's still very much just a normal lad.

He just wants to hang out with his mates and girlfriend, Sophia Smith, whenever he gets a spare five minutes away from the gruelling schedule of 1D.

But, as he appears to be learning the hard way, life is now completely different for our hometown superstar.

Our advice? Come back home to Wolverhampton for a while and get your feet well and truly back on the ground – not 360ft high ...

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

PAUL McCartney declared he would never touch cannabis again after being fined by a court in Barbados. When he was asked if he truly meant that, he grinned and replied: "Probably not."

LEADERS of the West Midlands police committee were so disgusted that they walked out of a private screening of 'video nasties'. Members of the committee had been shown clips of films at the centre of a case at Dudley Crown Court, which saw a video shop owner convicted of obscenity charges in a legal test case.

A MILKMAN charged with showing an indecent video on a football coach as it travelled along the M6 in Walsall was cleared by the town's magistrates. The man, from Manchester, had been travelling back with colleagues from Express Dairies from the previous year's Milk Cup Final between Liverpool and Manchester United.

1993...

SHOWBUSINESS stars Roy Castle, Harry Secombe and Ruth Madoc were left stunned as the curtain fell suddenly on Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre where they were performing. The 93-year-old venue shut after running up massive debts, and it emerged it had even tried to sell its seats, curtains and chandeliers in a last-ditch bid to stay afloat.

NINE hippies refused to budge from two stone cottages on the edge of a 100ft cliff on the Isle of Wight, despite police warnings that they were in severe danger after torrential rain triggered a major landslide.

BRITISH politicians were letting the side down in the style stakes, according to survey by an image consultancy. Chancellor of the Exchequer Ken Clarke was voted the scruffiest, with a suit which looked like it had been slept in was the withering verdict.

2003...

PREMIERSHIP strugglers Wolves pulled off a sensational win over champions Manchester United. Kenny Miller scored the only goal of the game at Molineux in the 67th minute, although Wolves remained second-from-bottom of the table.

NINETEEN jobs were lost as struggling record chain Our Price closed three stores in the West Midlands. The company, which had been in administration since November, closed its stores in Dudley, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

HOME Secretary David Blunkett revealed that his initial reaction to the suicide of killer GP Dr Harold Shipman was to open a bottle of bubbly. Shipman had been found hanging in his cell at Wakefield Prison.

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NEWS

Protesters will carry on fight to save day centre

CAMPAIGNERS have vowed to continue their fight to save the council-run day Chase Day Centre in Cannock from closing, despite bosses ruling it will shut.

Users of the Longford Road Centre, for adults with learning disabilities, will be meeting over the next few weeks to discuss a plan of action in a last-ditch bid to save the facility from closure.

Staffordshire County Council's cabinet agreed at a meeting last week to shut the facility and move it into a smaller, as yet unknown, building.

Decision

Campaigner Dave Bailey, of Old Fallow Road, Cannock, whose son Stuart, aged 46, uses the centre, said: "We are not going to give up the fight. We've organised to have a meeting in for parents and carers. I know a decision has been made but we aren't happy about it."

"What really concerns me is that some adults with learning disabilities will be thrown out of the service and end up walking the streets if they have nowhere to go."

Campaigners had protested in the town centre the weekend before. Currently around 82 adults with learning disabilities use the Chase Day Centre.

Eight other centres will be affected in Stafford, Lichfield, Codsall, Kidsgrove, two in Newcastle, and ones in Burton



Chase Day Services, Longford Road, Cannock, which is to close down

and Tamworth. They will either close, move, downsize or be run by charities, community groups and even private companies.

Also, service users will also have to undergo a fresh assessment to see if they should be sent elsewhere.

The decision is part of a massive overhaul of services for disabled adults.

They add the changes mean vulnerable people will get the proper care they need. Around 30 per cent of service users with the most severe learning dis-

abilities will continue with the provision they currently get.

It is not known yet where the new centre in Cannock will open or what will happen to the current building in Longford Road.

Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley said: "Service users with profound disabilities need a specialist centre locally."

"I will be ensuring that no service users will be moved to the new facility until it is fully equipped and ready for them."

Quiz night to aid macmillan

A QUIZ night in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support takes place next month. Rugeley progressive Working Men's Club (Mansefield House) in Market Street, is the venue for the fundraiser on Wednesday, February 26. It starts at 7.30pm and costs £2.50 per person for teams of four.

Coffee morning at church

THE next regular coffee morning at St. John's Church, Slitting Mill, takes place on Wednesday, February 5. The events are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 10.30am and include a raffle and a bric-a-brac sale. Admission is £2 to include a hot drink and biscuits or cake.

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LETTERS

Father in praise of help for daughter

COULD you please publish this letter as a way of saying thank you to the two good samaritans who stopped to help my daughter? She ended up in a ditch after spinning her car along Rawnley Road on January 8 at around 8am.

Eileen from a Tesco store was the first to stop and climbed in among the brambles to make sure she was okay and helped her to get out of the car. Clive, a man in a BT Openreach van then stopped and managed to retrieve her car from the brambles. He then followed her to make sure she got home safely. A massive thank you to both. Both car and daughter are now up and running again.

Could you both please give your details to The Chronicle to forward on to me so I can send personal letters to once again show our appreciation?

PETER BEARDSHAW
Hednesford

Crisis Support Scheme for those in need

GIVEN the levels of hardship currently being experienced by those on low incomes, I am sure many will share my dismay that only two and a half per cent of the Local Crisis Support Scheme fund has been passed on to help people in desperate need.

Staffordshire County Council was allocated £1.4 million last April when the Government scrapped the Social Fund but had only spent £35,000 by the end of 2013. Now, however, we learn

the Government is going to scrap this emergency fund altogether in 15 months, which will only serve to increase the numbers of people who have to resort to loan sharks or excessive-interest credit or turn to charities like food banks, for support.

In contrast to the cold-heartedness of the Government and the county council towards those hardest hit by their austerity measures, thank goodness there are generous people around who donate

to food banks and give their time freely to run support services or credit unions, such as Fusion.

The Staffordshire Crisis Support Scheme was not well-publicised and, in my view, the criteria for receiving assistance were set far too high but if you or someone you know are in need call 0300 111 8008, while the scheme still operates.

SUSAN WOODWARD
Councillor, Burntwood North

LETTERS

to the Editor

POST

Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

cannock.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Magical looks made event so worthwhile

MAY I, through the your newspaper, express grateful thanks on behalf of Rugeley Rotary Club and Rugeley Lions to the generous people of Rugeley, Little Haywood, Hill Ridware and Upper Longdon for their wonderful support of our clubs' Santa Sleigh in the two weeks prior to Christmas? 'Donations to our respective clubs' charities came in at £4,566.22 and all this money will be distributed through the Lions and Rotary charities. The magical looks on the faces of the children, aged 0 to 90, really make the event so worthwhile.

Many thanks to Tina Bailey for 'garaging' the sleigh, to the staff at Waymax, Rugeley for the generous loan of the platform truck, to Rugeley Town Council not only for the loan of their 'corporate' sleigh but also for their decision to hand over ownership of the sleigh to the two clubs.

But to the people of Rugeley and surrounding areas a huge thank you for making us so welcome, for the smiles and the cheering and for your astonishing generosity.

PETER FIELDING
Rugeley Lions

Fundraising thanks

CAN I most sincerely thank The Chronicle for the coverage of my handmade poppies? I would like to thank everyone who contributed to my fundraising for The Royal British Legion through my hand-crocheted poppies last November, the final total of which was £1,381.40 making a cumulative total of £5,200 for the past five years.

I will again be crocheting poppies for 2014. These will be special commemorative design to mark the 100 anniversary of the First World Wars.

JACKIE LITTLEMORE
Poppy Lady, Rugeley

Green belt ideal just nonsense

THE article of January 2 regarding the petition on plans to build on green belt land interested me.

I am no supporter of KGL Estates and it would be cynical of me to suggest the 'gifting' of land which had been open cast and unsuitable to build on could be construed as a ploy for the latest development.

However, how many of the 4,000 residents have complained about young people not being able to get on the property ladder because of the housing shortage? Not enough homes are being built by councils for rent due to government restrictions and I question the 'idea' of affordable homes in private development as a sop. Who can afford a mortgage on a property of about £200,000?

The ideal of green belt land between Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay is a bit of nonsense. If you travel down Station Street with the roads adjacent, you will see there is no green belt.

T LOWE
Great Wyrley

Bargains out there if you shop around

IN a recent edition an article was printed about the price of Christmas trees last year. Like many people, I was astonished at what seemed to be extortionate prices when I took my family on our annual trip to Birches Valley and decided we may well have to bite the bullet and go artificial.

However on our way back to Cannock, we saw the signs for Marquis Drive Christmas tree sales, and to my shame after living in Cannock all my life, I didn't realise there was another tree sales point on the Chase.

We found 6ft trees £10-£15 cheaper, the volunteer staff were helpful and cheerful, and to top it off, we were told that because we had purchased a tree, it was free to see Santa.

So shop around, there are still bargains to be had!

STUART GHENT, Cannock

Replace scruffy pub with food bank plea

AFTER a long absence living in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside, I decided to come back to the Cannock area, and was so surprised to see the Ascot Tavern pub at the Longford still standing - it really does need bulldozing.

It looks like a World War II bunker or even a flying saucer been plonked in the middle of a council estate - it's scruffy.

Most people who use the place are die hard barflies who prop the bar up, aging old rockers who haven't changed their jeans since 1985 or even got their hair cut. Even the dart board is bald.

As for the disco room all that stands is a light bulb. Other people have also said something new should be put in its place, like old folk's bungalows or a food bank.

J HOOD, Hednesford

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NEWS

Get on board for books at school's new library

It is not something you would expect to see during break time in a school playground - a 40ft boat being lowered by crane.

But pupils at Chancel Primary in Rugeley were captivated as they watched the vessel being delivered before it is fitted out as a library.

The Wolsley Road school has been awarded a £10,000 lottery grant, which has been used to create an outdoor learning space on a 40ft boat.

The school does not have a library of its own and uses a corridor to store its books in.

Pupils and parents gathered to watch the boat levered on to the site - and now work will begin to fit it out ready for the books to be stored there.

The school is appealing for any local carpenters or building to firms to help fit shelves and refurbish the interior.

Experience

Sarah Mollitt, chairman of the school's Parents, Teachers and Friends Association, applied to the Lloyds Community Fund in August and the school was awarded the grant in November.

Miss Mollitt said: "It was a great experience for the children to watch the boat brought in - we've never seen anything like it at the school before."

"We had people from across the community coming to see it."

"The children have all been really excited and they can't wait to get in there."

Students are now being asked to come up with names for the boat and the winner will be announced in the coming weeks.

Miss Mollitt added: "We have asked the children to think very carefully



Chancel pupil Millie Groom, aged seven, with head Tina Blankley and boat builder Nick Thorpe with the 40ft narrow boat due to become a library

about choosing a name for the boat, a very unique thing to have in school grounds. Since our grant application was accepted, our plans have moved at an incredible speed.

Incredible

"It's not unusual for a primary school not to have a library, that is why I came up with the idea of having a space for the pupils to go and read books."

"We wanted to make better use of the outdoor space we have and a boat is

"We visited Nick Thorpe, a boat builder in Hixon to discuss a build date and he got to work straight away and finished the boat on Christmas Eve."

"Now we need to raise money to kit it out with furniture and transform it into an innovative learning space and community hub."

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Advertisement Feature

This weekend Energie Fitness For Women in Cannock are holding a three day event and will be have a range of special offers available during the event which starts on Friday 24 January 2014 and the great news is that the first 20 ladies who take out a full membership will each receive 25% off plus a additional two months' membership free of charge. The event is designed to give ladies the opportunity to get their 2014 off to a flying start and increase their physical activity levels.

Our club is the only club that caters for the mature lady, making exercise a sociable and enjoyable activity in a relaxed atmosphere and with warm welcoming staff. We offer an easy to use motorised exercise circuit that takes the pressure away from muscles and joints and allows people with a range of ailments such as arthritis, osteoporosis, multiple sclerosis, joint replacements and ladies

recovering from strokes and other similar problems to exercise.

As we get older it is easier to put on a few extra pounds. Other age ranges are catered for by high impact gyms, but for many, gyms with blaring TVs, loud music and complicated machines can be intimidating. Thankfully we have none of that in our club, which helps to create a really relaxed atmosphere where staff are on hand to support and guide you through your exercise routine.



Our motortone machines are so good and easy to use that we have many referrals from doctors who recommend our club for rehabilitation from a range of problems including diabetes and heart conditions.

Club owner Carl Ziemann says: "This event is designed to give ladies who maybe want to exercise but don't want to go to a large commercial club, an opportunity to see a viable alternative and that exercise is fun and that a simple routine of 30 minutes two-to-three times a week can change completely a person's lifestyle."

So why not call into the club which is based opposite the entrance to Wickes DIY store on Hollies Court, where you will be able to speak to staff, browse a range of stalls and take part in free demonstrations of our machines, call in for free refreshments and we will be happy to show you around.



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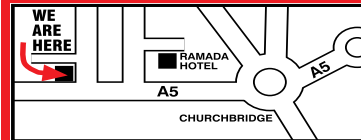
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NEWS

Charity is aiming to spread the warmth

A CHARITY supporting the elderly is celebrating a birthday with a difference next week. Age UK South Staffordshire is throwing open the doors of its Day Opportunities Centre, in Walsall Road, Bridgtown, next Thursday (January 30).

The charity uses Sir Julian House to provide a wide range of activities for people with dementia or complex need.

An open afternoon, from 3.30pm, will offer visitors the chance to have a look around the building as it marks the six month anniversary since it opened. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to let Sylvia Dunn or Carol Williams know on 01785 788 482/481.

Meanwhile, the charity is joining forces with colleagues nationwide to raise awareness of the issues faced by

older people over the winter. For national Bobble Day, on February 7, Age UK South Staffordshire will provide advice and be raising funds. The Spread the Warmth, Wellbeing day takes place at St Luke's Church Hall, Cannock from 1 to 4.30pm. Entry is free and soup will be served. Bobbles will be available for donations of £1. Call 01785 788 496/7 for more.

Weller tickets for Chase gig expected to sell out

FOREST concert organisers say tickets are expected to sell out for Paul Weller's performance at Cannock Chase this summer.

The Modfather will perform at Birches Valley on June 28. Hundreds of tickets, priced at £46.20, were sold within hours of going on sale last Friday.

Weller previously played a sell-out gig on the Chase in 2009.

News of the ticket sales comes after the 5,300 allocation to see Jessie J on June 27 at the forest have sold out.

The gigs are part of the Forestry Commission's Forest Live concert programme in spectacular woodland locations across the country.

Rachael Miller, events manager at the Forestry Commission, said: "We have had very strong sales for Paul Weller at Cannock Chase and this follows selling out the entire allocation for Jessie J. This is great

by Rob Gollidge

news if we can have two sell-out gigs because all the money will be ploughed back into improving our woodlands."

It's been 30 years since Paul Weller first exploded onto the music scene, suited and booted, and armed with statement tunes in The Jam.

The Cannock forest concerts began in 2006 and have featured the likes of Erasure, Jools Holland, the Sugababes and Simple Minds. Last year Blondie and Paloma Faith performed.

More than 10,000 music lovers bought tickets for the music extravaganza.



Paul Weller will perform on the Chase on June 28

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CLUB NEWS

Sadness
over death
of stalwart

RIDWARES WI

NOVEMBER'S meeting opened on a very sad note with the news that our longest serving member, Rita Gray, had passed away.

Rita, a committee member, had unstintingly run our raffles, sourcing prizes and helping in every way at all the functions.

Speaker for the evening was Jackie Roberts, who ran her own business from home - The Chocolate Tailor. After a 20-year career in hotels and education she turned her hobby into a new career. Following a residential course at Slatteries in Manchester, Jackie realised there was no-one hand-making bespoke chocolates.

Chocolate usage goes back many centuries: in 300AD the Mayans believed it was the food of the Gods and the Aztecs used it as a form of currency. The cocoa tree can only be grown in equatorial lands and by 1600 Germany, France, England, Holland and Italy started to grow it in their colonies.

Drinking chocolate houses sprang up in Europe and were considered to be a way to get the working classes away from alcohol.

The competition, A Pretty Box, was won by Carmel Hemming. The next Community Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday, February 4 and a Welsh Tea is on March 6 - all are welcome! Next month's WI meeting is on Tuesday, February 18 with a talk on Bees and Beekeeping by Barbara Egerton.

Owner thanked as
collection tin filled

President Tim Burgin presents a certificate to store manager Pinder Singh Uppal

RUGELEY Lions Club pride themselves on their community work and support for local causes but none of this would be possible without the generosity and funds provided by members of the public.

Every penny raised does go towards worthy causes and this prompted convenience shop owner, Pinder Singh Uppal, to have a collection tin on his counter at the Premier store in the Fernwood precinct.

His customers have been so generous that the tin has been filled every month

RUGELEY LIONS

since it was put in the store and donations in less than six months will soon reach £100. As a thank you, Pinder was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Rugeley Lions.

Rugeley Lions now hope other community minded retail outlets will offer to display one of their collection tins to raise funds for the community. Call on 08458332904 or visit the Lions on their Facebook page.

Guild show 'how to' be on TV

THE Guild has taken part in a TV documentary to be aired on Sky TV next month.

They took part in the filming of the "How to" series produced by PMG TV.

The guild was host to producer Guido Haak and his team, Margaret Key, national TG chairman, David Brotherton and Jo Egan from TGHQ. The day consisted of individual interviews of key guild

GREAT
WYRLEY TG

members, including chairman Bette Webbe, Pauline Benton leader of the South Staffs Choir, plus the vice-chairman Pam Ball, and social secretary Pat Jones.

Previous chairmen Pauline Kelsey and Marlene Wilcox were also interviewed. Margaret Key was

filmed and asked about her role and the activities of the organisation.

Bette opened the meeting and proceedings were also filmed. The choir was filmed rehearsing and sang Small Part of the World.

The programme will be screened on February 11 at 7.30pm and on February 16 at 6pm, simultaneously on Sky Channel 191 and Freesat Channel 400.

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NEWS

Trust relief as HS2 consultation extended

A WILDLIFE conservation charity has welcomed the decision by a parliamentary committee to extend the consultation period on phase one of the £50 billion HS2 project.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has been given an extra 17 days to examine and comment on the environmental statement on the proposed high-speed rail project.

The House of Commons' standing orders committee ruled last week that

the deadline should be extended until February 10 after 877 pages of key documents were left off a computer memory stick given in evidence as part of the 50,000 page report.

Pity

A public consultation on the environmental repercussions of Phase One of the £50bn project which ends near Lichfield, was due to finish tomorrow (Friday). Kate Dewey, the trust's plan-

ning and conservation officer, said, "Whilst we welcome the 17-day extension, it is a pity the decision to extend the consultation process was based on an administrative failing, rather than a more considered approach on the length of time and the volume of material involved."

More than 27 wildlife sites across the county, including woodland, wetland and heathland, are threatened by the route.

Tributes paid to Wolves goalkeeping great Bert

TRIBUTES are pouring in from all over the world to Wolves, Walsall and England goalkeeping great Bert Williams MBE, who has died aged 93.

Wolves will be holding a minute's applause before Saturday's home match against Bristol City, and say a celebration of his life will take place.

His family have requested a private funeral, but say plans for a memorial service at St Peter's Church are in the pipeline so he can be remembered by hundreds of fans.

Agility

The star, nicknamed 'The Cat' because of his extraordinary agility, passed away at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, where he had been for a week. He played 420 games for Wolves and won 24 caps for England. He was the country's oldest living international, with that mantle now passing to Sir Tom Finney, who will be 92 in April.

Bert's family thanked the many well-wishers who had paid tribute to him. Son-in-law David Crawshaw said:



Bert Williams in acrobatic form while while playing for England

"Bert slipped away peacefully surrounded by family. You couldn't have wished for a calmer way to go."

Former Wolves goalkeeper Matt Murray led the tributes: "He was, without question, Wolves greatest goalkeeper and a top, top man. The word 'legend' gets banded about too easily these days, but in Bert's case he was the

ultimate legend." Recently, Bert - who has a sports centre named after him in Bilston - fell victim to Alzheimer's, the disease which claimed his wife Evelyn in 2002. Following her death he helped raise £150,000 for the Alzheimer's Society. Those efforts contributed towards his MBE for services to football and charity in 2010.

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Skate park rampz up bid to expand



New apprentice Josh Mobberley with Rampz Skate Park partners, Wayne Lewis, left, and Kevin Lewis

BOSSES have revealed plans to extend as a skate park marked its first anniversary. Rampz Skatepark in the Lakeside Plaza, Cannock, was started by brothers Wayne and Kevin Lewis. The pair previously ran two bicycle shops.

The venue attracts more than 1,000 visitors a month. Now the brothers want to expand into a neighbouring unit and create a mezzanine viewing gallery. Wayne, 48, said:

"We were selling a lot of scooters and the kids had to travel to Birmingham to use them. So we saw a gap in the market to set up our own here in Cannock."

"We want to expand into next door which would give us an extra 3,000 square feet."

The centre employs six full-time and two part-time employees, including two apprentices.

Fears as school bus axed

PARENTS fear there may not be room for their children on public transport after being told a school bus service has been scrapped.

A coach service taking pupils from Coven to Wolgarston High School in Penkridge has been withdrawn.

The school said in a letter the children would now need to use the public bus service and that they should apply to Staffordshire County Council for a free pass. South Staffordshire MP

Gavin Williamson says many parents have raised concerns with him, including that the public bus may not have the capacity to carry the number of students who would need to use it.

Stranded

Other concerns raised included the risk that young students could be left stranded at bus stops, and that the earlier 3.35pm departure time would give students insufficient time to reach the bus after school.

Mr Williamson has now written to

the county council's chief executive to raise these concerns.

He said: "This decision to shift school pupils onto public transport is extremely concerning."

"Parents need to know that, even in extraordinary circumstances, their children are protected."

County councillor Mike Lawrence, cabinet member for communities and localism, said: "Where there is a good bus service we can move them from expensive coaches onto public transport."

NEWS

PCC plan for zero tax rise debated

POLICE & Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire Matthew Ellis wants to buck the national trend for police council tax increases.

Mr Ellis' plans for a zero increase will be discussed on Monday (January 27) with Police and Crime Panel members who will give their views before a final decision is made.

The Commissioner is responsible for setting the budget for policing, community safety and reducing crime across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent in 2014/15.

His plans mean people in Cannock and Rugeley will face no increase in the police and community safety portion of their council tax received by the PCC.

Recruited

Thanks to savings made in the last 12 months, the budget for 2014/15 will see neighbourhood policing numbers protected, more officers recruited and further investment in technology and other new processes.

Mr Ellis said: "With a £4.3m reduction in overall budget for 2014/15, the easy option would be to turn to council tax payers to meet the additional shortfall. But I don't want to do that."

"Through good house-keeping I want to spend every penny of public money better."



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The bus in service when it was running during 1952 in West Bromwich



Empty shell – the vehicle just before its restoration



Gordon Ibbotson who worked on the restoration on the bus with curator Janet Small

Restoration or bus-t as GEA174 double-decker is ready to roll

IT HAS been a 20-year labour of love. But for transport enthusiasts, the efforts to restore an old double-decker bus have been worth it.

And now volunteers are ready to hop on board to showcase their work to visitors to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

A £40,000 restoration project has been carried out by members of the transport group at the museum to give the bus a new lease of life.

The team will be proudly relaunching the GEA174 double-decker bus which was originally bought by West Bromwich Corporation in 1952 as part of a fleet of 20 before the local transport system was taken into private hands.

by Andrew Turton

The bus was used on the route 74 between Birmingham, West Bromwich and Dudley, but it was withdrawn in 1969.

The vehicle was then donated to Dudley Libraries and was kept stored in the former Midland Red garage in Wolverhampton.

In the museum's early years it was used to collect items – including Emile Doo's chemist from Netherton which now stands proudly on the museum's Canal Street.

By 1980 bus GEA174 had moved permanently to the museum but as a kit broken into parts after a series of unsuccessful restoration attempts.

Now, with funds raised by the group and particularly a bequest from Arthur Whitehouse, and a team led by Gordon Ibbotson, the bus has been restored to its glory

days and is ready to take on a new generation of passengers.

There has been a full engine refurbishment, the brakes have been overhauled, side panels have been replaced along with the flooring and replacement window.

The radiator, which had several holes, has also been repaired and re-chromed and the exhaust has been replaced to get the bus back on the road again.

Seats

Janet Small, who is the curator for industry and transport at the museum, said: "Creating the moquette for the seats was a painstaking process but it was all worth it."

"It was made by Holdsworth in Meltham, Derbyshire; the same company that created the leather trimming for the seats, in the same colour used in the Triumph Stag."

Finally, the bus was brush

painted and transfers made and applied in-house to give it a finished off look for visitors to enjoy.

The costs were paid for by funds raised by the group and with the support of local companies offering discounts or not charging for small fixings.

The restored bus will now be taken out to a number of shows in the future as well as being used in order to help promote the museum.

Mr Ibbotson added: "It has been a true team effort with members of the Transport Group and many others contributing at each stage of the long restoration."

The restored bus GEA174 can be seen by visitors to the museum on Transport Group days, usually on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

For more information about the bus and the museum then visit www.bclm.co.uk



Pride and joy, Mr Ibbotson with the fully-restored 1950s bus at the museum

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NEWS

Fundraising highlight as £160k is hit

AN inspirational teenager with incurable cancer has been reflecting on what he describes as an 'unimaginable year' - with fundraising for the Teenage Cancer Trust the highlight.

Stephen Sutton first published online his quirky wish-list of 46 things to do 12 months ago. A year of fun and fundraising has followed and 19-year-old Stephen, of Burntwood, is now celebrating reaching a milestone of more than £160,000.

It had started with a troll tattoo inked strategically under his hairy armpit followed by a charity quiz at his local pub.

In the months following, Stephen has played the drums in front of 90,000 football fans at Wembley, surfed a festival crowd in a rubber dinghy, learned to juggle, performed a couple of skydives, given a speech at the House of Commons and met his comedy hero Jimmy Carr.

But topping the list, and by far the most important to him, was to raise £10,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, which has supported him and other young people fighting the disease.

The latest fundraising figure fills him with immense pride, and which makes him their top fundraiser on the Just Giving website.

He said it all seemed like such a long time ago, but he thinks the fundraising



Stephen Sutton, aged 19

started with a pub quiz at his local, The Wych Elm in Burntwood.

A lot has happened since, some of it not anticipated. He did not expect to enjoy the fundraising so much.

Looking back, the former Chase Terrace Technology College pupil said: "The

scale of it has been so incredible, it's been unimaginable. I have benefited personally from the kindness shown by the community out there, and knowing that people care."

Stephen has become something of a celebrity, with 12,500 'likes' on Facebook, 16,000 followers on Twitter and a clutch of awards to his name.

Incredible

He is the regional winner of the vInspired National Awards, has won Kids Count charity's Most Inspirational Young Person's Award and his school named a trophy after him.

He has earned standing ovations as a motivational speaker, most recently as guest speaker at the Find Your Sense of Tumour event organised by the Teenage Cancer Trust.

"I've had a really good time in 2013 and there's still a lot more to do," he said.

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NEWS

Hopes for year ahead after festive boost



Cannock Shopping Centre manager Natal Chapman, with, from left, traders Debbie Murphy, from Specsavers, Michael Hollinshead, from Argos, Sarah Wadsworth, from Cardstop, and Julie Onions, from Crazy Daisy

SHOPPING centre bosses in Cannock say they are looking forward to a busy year following a festive boost.

Customers flocked to the town for their Christmas shopping. Now traders within Cannock Shopping Centre say they are looking forward to the year ahead.

Centre manager Natal Chapman said: "Despite some major high street names reporting a decrease in sales over

Christmas, our latest reported figures indicate that Cannock Shopping Centre certainly bucked the trend.

"Our Christmas events certainly made a difference in terms of footfall."

Jo Thacker, from fashion and homeware store Crazy Daisy, said: "We have had an incredible response from shoppers since opening in October."

Asda target for thieves

SHOPLIFTERS have targeted Cannock's main Asda store more than 200 times over the past three years.

Figures show that thieves struck at the Avon Road supermarket on 219 occasions between 2010 and 2013.

Across Staffordshire and the Black Country, 906 Asda thefts were recorded, with 310 incidents at the Wolverhampton store in Jack Hayward Way and 191 in Stafford.

Asda spokesman Andy Devoy said:

"We welcomed more than 10 million customers to our stores in Wolverhampton and Cannock over the past three years, yet instances of shoplifting are minimal.

"However, we do take the matter extremely seriously following up every incident with the police."

Frequently

Pharmacy chain Boots was another target for thieves across the region, with stores hit 755 times in the same period. Figures from Staffordshire

Police showed that in Cannock, Asda was the number one target for shoplifters.

Boots in Church Street was the second most frequently targeted store in the town with 137 thefts.

A Boots spokeswoman said: "We actively work with the police and local authorities and proactively report these offences."

West Midlands Police Superintendent Keith Fraser said: "These offences can have a detrimental and long lasting impact on staff."

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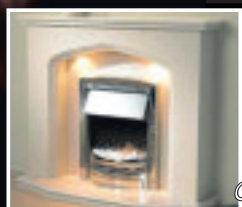
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NEWS

Sigh of relief for shops as takeover is confirmed

MORE than 20 small businesses have been told they will not be forced to find new premises following the collapse of a shopping centre operator.

UK-wide InShops, which has a base in Cannock shopping centre, went into liquidation last week leaving more than 1,000 shopkeepers homeless.

Now businesses in Cannock have been told they are safe after being named among stores that have been taken over by Salford-based Birwood Properties.

Selina Oates, who runs Cannock Print at InShops, said the news came as a huge relief. She said: "We were all told about the liquidation which was a bit of a shock."

Occupied

"But at the same meeting we were told of the takeover and that we were among the stores that were being saved. It's great news."

The InShops centre in Cannock has capacity for about 45 shops, with just under half currently occupied.

Ms Oates, from Telford, said: "Some people have been here for 15 years, so it would have been a big upheaval."

"The centre is doing well. We have customers from Walsall and other places shopping here and business is very steady."

In a statement, InShops said it had suffered from increasing losses and was unable to generate sufficient cash to allow them to continue. Liquidators were appointed on Tuesday.

Campaign calls for end to badger cull

A CAMPAIGN calling for a crackdown on badger culling across Staffordshire has been launched.

Protesters fear the badger population could be wiped out after Government-endorsed culls were started in Gloucestershire and Somerset with a view to them being rolled out across the country to tackle bovine tuberculosis.

The e-petition, called Save Staffordshire Council's Badgers From Culling, will be available to sign until March 11 at www.b-r-a-v.co.uk/operationbadger/staffordshire.htm

Katie on a mission



Ready to travel to Cambodia is Katie Moorcroft, aged 16, of Brownhills

A MOTHER will embark on a sponsored walk across Cannock Chase this weekend, to enable her schoolgirl daughter to head off for voluntary work in Cambodia.

The youngster, Katie Moorcroft, is poised to leave her home in Brownhills and head thousands of miles away to work at an orphanage. The fundraising drive has been launched to help the 16-year-old achieve her ambition in July.

Katie, who will help teach English

and complete building work, said: "I think it will definitely be a culture shock but I am hoping to do it again next year if it all goes to plan."

Around £2,000 is needed to cover the costs of the trip. The keen dancer is looking for donations and is organising activities such as a dance show and sponsored silence.

Her mother Pam is undertaking the 12-mile walk around the Chase this weekend. Anyone who is willing to donate can call 07751 617297.

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NEWS

Children's cinema latest screening is a monster

FILM lovers can enjoy family favourite Monsters University at Cannock's children's cinema club this weekend.

Organised by CreateChurch:Cannock, the CreateCinema:Club takes place on Saturday, January 25, from 10am to noon at the Electric Palace Picture House in Walsall Road.

Youngsters up to 11 can watch classic children's films on the big screen with their parents and carers, at a cost of just 50p each to cover refreshments.

Tea, coffee and squash is available at no extra cost. Filmgoers can also buy popcorn and other snacks.

Concert to remember drummer is sold out

A CHARITY concert dedicated to late Charlantans drummer Jon Brookes will be a sell-out after all available tickets were snapped up.

Local bands will perform at Darlaston All Active on February 8. Britain's Got Talent finalist Connie Talbot is among the star acts set to take to the stage.



Tribute – Jon Brookes

Mr Brookes, from Burntwood, died last August at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham after battling a brain tumour.

The gig has been organised by Adam Paget, a life-long friend of Mr Brookes.

He said in the four days after they first went on sale all 480 tickets had been sold.

Mr Paget said: "We could have sold double the number. I've been inundated with calls from people who want to buy tickets."

"We're thinking that if people just want to stay for one act, we can have their tickets and sell them on again. It means more people can come along and get in."

The tickets cost £6 each, so already almost £3,000 has been raised for the Brain Tumour Charity.

Managed

Mr Paget said Connie Talbot fans were coming to the concert from as far away as Scotland.

Performers on the night include the bands Marquis Drive once managed by Mr Brookes as well as Isolated Atoms, Junk Monkey, Little Liam, The Rimes, Idle and Spectrum.

A guitar signed by East-Enders' Danny Dyer and one signed by Welsh rockers Stereophonics will be auctioned to raise funds.

Cannock Orpheus Male Voice Choir will also be performing a Charlantans hit.

A fundraising raffle will be held with prizes including £500 worth of vouchers from Liam Gallagher's clothing range Pretty Green.

Wolverhampton artist Paul Pilgrim will auction off paintings of Mr Brookes, a father-of-three.

Family research

ORGANISERS want to hear from anyone interested in a taking part in a class on basic computer skills for family history research. Lessons are being held at Burntwood Library, Sankeys Corner, and anyone interested is asked to call 01543 684208 or email pam.woodburn@talktalk.net

The petition can be found at www.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/57585

Women's Day service

A SERVICE is being held on Friday, March 7 at St Augustine's Church in Rugeley to mark Women's World Day of Prayer. The service at the Station Road church is entitled 'Streams in the Desert' and is interdenominational. It has been prepared by the Christian women of Egypt and starts at 2pm.

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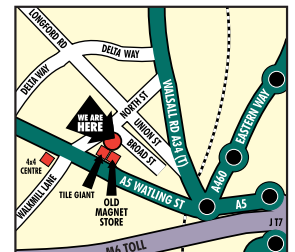
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NEWS

Twist in the tale of a beautiful classic



Emily Lake from Cannock Chase Drama Society plays the part of Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* in Cannock

AN AMATEUR theatre company is bringing the classic fairytale *Beauty and the Beast* to life at a Cannock venue. Members of Cannock Chase Drama Society are putting on their own version at the Prince of Wales Centre, in Church Street. The group of 28 actors and dancers have been rehearsing for the last two months.

Organiser Julie Hunter said: "Rather than stick to the script, it has a little twist and we have included the two Ugly Sisters from *Cinderella* in our show. There will also be songs from *One Direction* and *Olly Murs* so that younger ones watching will be able to sing along."

The show will be dedicated to the society's former secretary, Colin Cooper, who died last year after a short illness. His wife Barbara is the show's producer and the couple's daughter Janine is also in the show.

The play runs from January 29 to February 1. For tickets, call 07968 757820.

No red tape for public on street events

CARNIVALS, fetes and street markets have been made easier to arrange after red tape was cut to remove obstacles for organisers.

Cannock Chase District Council has amended its street trading policy after a number of events struggled to get off the ground because of bureaucracy.

The events will still need to have permission from the authority but organisers will not face as many hurdles.

Councillors have agreed to cut the red tape despite objections from the Friends of Cannock Park Association.

The group has concerns that the changes will lead to public safety being compromised.

Trading

The policy came into force in April 2012 to regulate street trading following fears about the size, location, appearance and number of street traders in Cannock and across the district.

Christine Salmon, a member of the association, said the group had helped to create the street trading policy but had been given no chance to have an input on the changes.

She said: "Above all, it is the safety of the public we are concerned about. We helped create the policy to protect members of the public, and we are disap-

by Rob Gollidge

pointed we were not asked for our thoughts prior to the changes. The council says that the same standards will have to be kept to, but we are not totally sure on that."

Councillor Carl Bennett, portfolio leader for the environment, proposed the changes after complaints that it was too difficult to organise events which had been affected by the policy.

Councillor Chris Mitchell welcomed the move. She said: "Organisers have faced a rigmarole to get events off the ground."

"We all want to see community events in places such as our parks so this will help our communities do that." A report to councillors states that proper regulation of street trading will be maintained.

Conservative group leader Councillor Paul Snape called for a consultation to be held with groups such as the Friends. He said: "We should go back to a full public consultation."

Arrest after M-way crash

A MAN has been arrested after a crash on the M6 in Staffordshire. Police say he is being held on suspicion of being unfit to drive through drugs following the smash at 10pm last Thursday (January 16). A rottweiler inside the car was taken away by police.

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PENKRIDGE FOCUS

How's that for a pledge after Ashes whitewash



Penkridge Cricket Club's Aussie player Gary Pope, left, and scorer Dave Jones in front of the scoreboard at the club

PENKRIDGE Cricket Club official Dave Jones put his foot in it over the winter. First XI scorer Jones was convinced that England would retain the Ashes Down Under.

Jones even told Penkridge's Australian import Gary Pope that if the Aussies seized the urn he would walk to the first XI's first away fixture of the new season.

England's subsequent 5-0 thrashing had Jones anxiously awaiting the Birmingham League Division Two fixture list. But Jones will stick to his word and is making the best of a bad job by using the 42-mile walk to Coventry & North Warwick to raise money for charity.

"I was gutted when England lost the Ashes, but this was made far worse when I found out where I would have to walk!" he said.

"I knew from looking at the teams in the league that it could be anywhere between six and 65 miles, but didn't think for a minute that the Aussies would win. Me and my big mouth!"

"In keeping with the cricket theme, I have decided to raise money for The Broad Appeal in aid of motor neurone disease, which is championed by Stuart Broad, who lost his mother to the disease.

Jones hopes to raise £1,000 and would be grateful for all contributions. He has set up a fund raising page: www.justgiving.com/waggywalk14/

Jean concert to swell organ appeal funds

A COMMITTEE has raised more than £20,000 in an attempt to restore an organ to its former glory.

The Organ Restoration Appeal Committee needs £80,000 to restore the 125 year old Church Organ at St. Michael and All Angels Church in Penkridge.

The organ has been surveyed by renowned expert Paul Hale, Rector Cori at Southwell Minster and it is estimated that it will take a gruelling two years of fundraising to raise the total sum needed.

Penkridge Business Association chairman, Anne Geoghegan, said: "We are about a quarter of the way there with our fundraising so we aren't doing too badly.

Pockets

"Over the last year we have organised many fundraising events and people have dug deep in their pockets and donated generously to help us with our appeal.

"It is important that we raise this money because the organ is the focal point of our beautiful Grade I listed church and as there have been no significant changes to it since 1888, it is a very rare instrument that we want to preserve.

"A church of this stature really needs an instrument to serve the community for the next 100 years, for wed-

dings, funerals, church services and more."

Britain's Got Talent star Jean Martyn will play a special concert at the church next month to help boost funds.

The keyboard player who impressed judges and audiences on the ITV talent show, will play a selection of songs from 7.30pm on Saturday February 8.

Mrs Geoghegan added: "This is going to be a very popular concert and it is already on the way to being a sell-out.

"Jean used to teach music in the village and she will be returning with some classical and popular songs. I hope a lot of people will come and show their support."

Tickets for the event cost £10 and are available from Whitehouse Pharmacy and Alan's Pet Store in Market Street.

Messy church activities

SONGS, crafts and refreshments will be available at a Penkridge church next weekend. St Michael's an All Angels Church in Church Road will host its Messy Church on Sunday, February 2 at 4pm. For details call 01785 714 344.

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NEWS

Car ends up in back of parked vehicle



The scene of the collision in Longford Road, Cannock, where a car ended up crashing into a parked vehicle

A CAR ploughed onto a grass verge and ended up mounting the back of a parked vehicle. The crash happened in Longford Road, Cannock at around 7.40am last Thursday.

The driver of the blue Peugeot 206 careered off the road after swerving to avoid another car coming from a side road. She then hit a tree stump and ended up mounting the back of a silver Vauxhall Corsa. Paramedics were called along with Staffordshire Police officers. Nobody was injured.

Mark Lomas, whose 23-year-old son Dan owns the Vauxhall Corsa, said: "We were inside the house at the time. We

heard a loud bang and we rushed outside to help the woman inside the car.

"She was shaken up. She came away from it rather well considering. I understand the woman had to swerve to avoid a car coming from Poplar Lane. She hit the tree stump and basically took off and hit Dan's car."

Mr Lomas said his son, a footballer who plays for Brocton FC, was most concerned about a pair of new football boots in his boot. He said: "Dan's first worry was his new football boots. I think both cars have been written off though."

Shops' backing for charity

SHOPPING centre bosses in Cannock have pledged to support a children's charity for another year.

Cannock Shopping Centre is extending its partnership with the Newlife Foundation for Disabled Children.

In 2013, the shopping centre set out to raise £3,467 to fund a specialist bed for a local disabled child. To date they have raised £2,557 and have decided to

continue support for the Cannock-based cause for another year. They are also looking to raise a further £2,000 to help another local child.

Newlife fundraising manager Nora Smith said: "Cannock Shopping Centre management, staff and customers generously supported Newlife throughout 2013. Newlife has already ring-fenced the balance so the family could have the benefit of the specialist bed as soon as possible - and we are

delighted that the shopping centre has chosen to continue to support us to fund this equipment in its entirety.

"This will free up urgently needed funds for other disabled and terminally ill children in the county."

Shopping centre manager Natal Chapman said: "We are determined to hit the all-important goal of £3,467. Further to this, we would like to be able to raise enough money to help look after another child."

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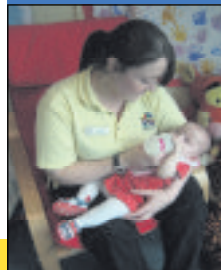
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Take a look at Chadsmoor

Chadsmoor and High Town to the north-east of Cannock represent the late-19th-and 20th-century expansion of the town as a mining area.

They now form an almost continuously built-up area joining Cannock to Hednesford. Much of West Chadsmoor consists of council and other housing dating from between the two World Wars and later.

As well as its popular row of niche village shops, Chadsmoor is a popular place for eating out with a number of Indian takeaways within a short distance.

It has a distinctive church history with a school-church being opened in 1874, with transepts and a small chancel being added in 1876. The foundation stone of the present church of St Chad was laid at Easter 1891 'in the presence of a large company of miners and their families', and the church was consecrated in 1892. It is built of machine-made red brick and consists of nave, chancel, south porch, vestry, and organ chamber. Stained glass was inserted in the east window in 1908 in memory of Tabitha Benton. There is one bell in a turret at the north-west corner of the church.

The small wooden church of St Aidan in Pye Green Road, West Chadsmoor, was in use from 1947 to 1956 when it was converted into a church hall. It had one bell. The present church, begun in 1955 on a nearby site on the opposite side of the road, was opened in 1956, the architects being Wood, Goldstraw, and Yorath of Stoke on Trent. Built of light-brown brick, the church consists of a wide nave, a shallow chancel, a south vestry, and a north porch, and has one bell.

A Primitive Methodist chapel was built at Chadsmoor in 1876 and was replaced in 1911 by a new chapel built in front of it. By 1956, the former chapel was being used as a Sunday school and also as a day school. The present chapel, of red brick with stone Gothic windows and doorways, was designed by Jeffries and Shipley.

There is one Baptist chapel, built in Arthur Street, in 1905 at a cost of £1,000. It replaced an earlier Baptist chapel, which stands behind it and was built in 1879. This former chapel was used as a Sunday school and as an overflow for Chadsmoor Central Boys' School. The present chapel is of red brick with stone dressings and leaded windows. It has seating accommodation for 250.

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Hednesford



Hednesford was an important coal mining community for over a century. This is commemorated in the town centre, where a Miner's Lamp has been erected, surrounded by a wall with individual bricks giving the names of former miners. The oldest sections of the town surround the hilltop areas of the existing town; however, the lower part of the town became the focal point as the community grew with the mining industry.

The urban area of Hednesford now spreads across a swathe of the northern fringe of Cannock, from Pye Green across to Heath Hayes, and is the southern gateway to Cannock Chase AONB.

Economically Hednesford has suffered since the 1980s as more people travel to the larger towns and cities nearby and due to the absence of redevelopment it retains a traditional street scene with many sole traders operating speciality shops. However, the area around Anglesey Square has been landscaped to provide a pleasant public space with a public clock as a central feature.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 25.01.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Emma Willis

The Voice UK

BBC1, 7pm

There was a danger The Voice was growing stale as Will.i.am and Tom Jones dropped more names than a Brit awards announcer. Thankfully a necessary shot in the arm came in the form of pop princess Kylie Minogue, while Kaiser Chief Ricky Wilson has proved a welcome addition too. It didn't hurt that Emma Willis and Marvin Humes joined as hosts either. Each judge selected at least one singer from episode one, but a couple of questions dominate this show: who will leave Kylie and her fellow judges spinning around this week, and who will get the cold shoulder?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Good Cook. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 12.45 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 1.15 Inspire: The Olympic Journey. A Winter Olympics special. 1.45 Live Athletics: UK Indoor Match. 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 Dynamo: Magician Impossible.

6.00 Reflex. Families from Eastbourne and Yorkshire battle each other in a series of physical and mental challenges. Hosted by Shane Richie.

6.45 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes host the third round of blind auditions, with coaches Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson aiming to bolster their teams further.

8.15 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers compete by listing as much as they know about given subjects. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.10 Casualty. Dixie confronts a suspected rapist during a night out - only to be accused of assault herself when he falls and hits his head. Ethan and Cal help a little boy gets his voice back.

10.00 Mrs Brown's Boys. (R)

10.30 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Film: Air Force One. (1997) Action thriller, starring Harrison Ford.

12.45 Film: The Two Mr Kissels. (2008) 2.10 Weatherview. 2.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.45 Film: The Spanish Main. (1945) 8.25 Live Tennis: Australian Open Women's Final. 11.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 12.00 The A to Z of TV Cooking. 12.45 The Big Bread Experiment. (R) 1.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.30 Live International Bowls. 4.30 Coast. (R) 5.00 Wild Arabia. (R)

6.00 Wild Arabia. Exploring the mountains of Dhoofar in Oman, where the annual Indian Ocean monsoon has helped create a lost world of waterfalls and cloud forests filled with fascinating wildlife. (R)

7.00 Flog It! Experts Philip Serrell and Charlie Ross examine heirlooms in Tavistock, Devon, while presenter Paul Martin has a look around Endsleigh Gardens. (R)

8.00 Dad's Army. Frazer is asked to look after the platoon's Lewis gun, but finds himself in hot water when he misplaces the spring - and fears it is has been left inside a coffin. (R)

8.30 Morecambe & Wise in Pieces: At Home. Penelope Keith presents a look through the archives at the parts of the comedy duo's shows in which they appeared in sketches set in domestic situations.

9.30 QI XL. An extended edition of the quiz, as Stephen Fry asks Victoria Coren Mitchell, Bill Bailey, Jimmy Carr and Alan Davies questions on the topic of jargon.

10.15 Film: West Is West. (2010) Comedy sequel, starring Om Puri.

11.55 International Bowls.

12.55 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. 6.10 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.05 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Om Nom Stories. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Dinner Date. (R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.25 ITV News: Weather. 11.30 Catchphrase. (R) 12.15 Live FA Cup Football. 3.00 All Star Family Fortunes. 3.40 You've Been Framed! (R) 4.10 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010)

6.20 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 ITV News: Weather.

6.45 Splash! Jenny Eclair, Austin Healey, Pollyanna Woodward, Una Foden and Richard Whitehead compete for two places in next week's semi-final with help from coach Tom Daley.

8.15 Take Me Out. A Cornwall surfer, a festival lover from Watford, a Bedford carpenter and a Take That tribute star from Manchester try to impress a panel of women. Paddy McGuinness presents.

9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host subjects another batch of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning. Plus, musical performances by A-list bands and solo artists.

10.30 ITV News: Weather.

10.45 FA Cup Football Highlights. Action from the completed fourth-round matches, including Southend United v Hull City, Bolton Wanderers v Cardiff City and Sunderland v Kidderminster Harriers.

12.00 The Cube. 12.50 Jackpot247. 3.00 Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The American Football Show: The Road to the Super Bowl. (R) 7.05 Trans World Sport. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 11.30 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.25 The Taste. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. 3.40 You've Been Framed! (R) 4.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.30 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. Chintu Gademsetty hosts the final dinner party in east London. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Speed with Guy Martin. The racing fan embarks on a mission to fly using muscle power alone, teaming up with engineers from Southampton University to build the fastest man-powered aircraft in the world. (R)

8.00 Bigfoot Files. Geneticist Bryan Sykes and presenter Mark Evans embark on a global quest to solve the riddle of mysterious creatures such as the sasquatch. (R)

9.00 Hostages. President Kincaid decides to switch doctors.

10.00 Film: Underworld: Rise of the Lycans. (2009) Premiere. Fantasy horror prequel, starring Michael Sheen.

11.45 Film: 30 Days of Night. (2007) Horror, starring Josh Hartnett.

1.50 Southland. (R) 2.35 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.50 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.45 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers: Megaforce. (R) 10.35 Access. 10.50 World's Worst Holiday Horrors. (R) 11.50 Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) 1.15 Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) 3.00 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 4.00 Film: Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind. (1975) 5.35 Film: Columbo: A Matter of Honour. (1976)

6.50 NCIS. Tony tries to piece together the chain of events that led to him being shot. (R)

7.40 NCIS. The team joins forces with military investigators to ascertain whether terrorists were responsible for an explosion at a golf course in which a marine colonel was killed. (R)

8.30 NCIS. A former marine falls to his death from a hotel balcony, and investigations lead the team to the discovery of another body - along with a vice ring trafficking young girls. (R)

9.20 5 News Weekend.

9.30 Celebrity Big Brother. With the reality series extended for an extra five days, further highlights of yesterday's goings-on, including reaction to another eviction ahead of Wednesday's final.

10.30 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour.

11.45 Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Road Terror: Caught on Camera. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.10 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.30 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth 7.15 Top Gear
8.15 Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (2008)
10.30 Russell Howard's Good News
11.00 Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Wild China 8.00 Pain, Pus & Poison: The Search for Modern Medicines 9.00 The Bridge 11.00 Forever Young - How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up

ITV2
2.30 Film: Honey (2003) 4.25 You've Been Framed! 5.25 You've Been Framed and Famous! 6.30 Film: The Perfect Storm (2000)
9.00 Film: Die Another Day (2002)
11.45 The Maguluf Weekender

ITV3
3.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot 4.55 Inspector Morse 6.55 Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 A Touch of Frost

ITV4
3.20 Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) 5.35 Film: Rooster Cogburn (1975) 7.50 Hornblower. First episode of the seafaring drama. Ian Gruffudd stars. 10.00 Film: Collateral Damage (2002)

E4
4.00 How I Met Your Mother 5.30 The Big Bang Theory: Access All Areas 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 The Tomorrow People 9.00 Film: Terminator Salvation (2009) 11.15 The Big Bang Theory 11.45 Rude Tube 2012

Film4
3.10 I Wanna Hold Your Hand (1978) 5.05 Tucker Gordon (1980) 7.15 John Tucker Must Die (2006) 9.00 Braveheart (1995) Oscar-winning historical epic, directed by and starring Mel Gibson.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 26.01.14

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CHOICE



Evan Davis

Dragons' Den

BBC2, 9pm
Savvy businessmen and women have managed to get their products out to the masses regardless of the entrepreneurs' interest. Hungry House, a takeaway website, has done rather well. But who out of this week's wannabe tycoons will manage to secure funds? Among those pitching are graduates from Manchester offering a stake in their youth-orientated package holiday business; the Bulgarian inventor of a self-filling bath; and a 20-year-old from Essex hoping to impress the Dragons with a cure for water-damaged mobile phones.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Moving On. (R) **2.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.45** Helicopter Heroes. **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Hidden Kingdoms. (R) **5.35** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

6.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate the authenticity of two paintings – one in London, one from Detroit – that might be by one of Britain's best-loved artists, John Constable.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and John Craven visit the Gwaun Valley and Preseli Hills in north Pembrokeshire, uncovering Iron Age treasures and giving an ancient forest a new lease of life. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Jenny Hall's mum-to-be who's baby was not fathered by her husband – and to complicate matters, the real father is black. Cynthia is inspired by a lecture on natural childbirth.

9.00 The Musketeers. D'Artagnan tries to prove he is worthy of joining the Musketeers, while they try to outwit a criminal who is threatening the king from his prison cell. Jason Flemyng guest stars.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Film: Meet the Fockers. (2004) Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro.

12.15 Weatherwise. **12.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Hue and Cry. (1947) **7.20** Countryfile Winter Special. (R) **8.15** Live Tennis: Australian Open Men's Final. Sue Barker presents coverage of the men's singles final at Melbourne Park. **12.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **1.30** The Big Bread Experiment. (R) **2.30** Live International Bowls. The World Indoor Championships. **5.15** Ski Sunday.

6.00 Wild Arabia. The changes that have swept across the Arabian peninsula since the discovery of oil, and how technology is being used to protect nature in a modern society. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 Flag It! Charlie Ross and Philip Sarrell help contestants sell antiques at auction in Tenby, Pembrokeshire. Paul Martin presents. (R)

8.00 The Coffee Trail with Simon Reeve. The adventurer examines the coffee industry in Vietnam, meeting some of the millions of people involved in picking, packing and transporting it to the UK.

9.00 Dragons' Den. The business ideas contest returns after a mid-series break. A 20-year-old entrepreneur from Essex pitches an ingenious cure for water-damaged mobile phones.

10.00 Film: Blood Diamond. (2006) A smuggler helps a fisherman find his missing son in war-torn Sierra Leone, in return for a rare pink diamond. Action thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Djimon Hounsou.

12.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile Winter Special. (R) **1.10** Holby City. (R) **2.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dingo Dan. (R) **6.40** Dingo Dan. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **10.00** Inside the National Trust. **11.00** ITV News: Weather. **11.15** Splash! **12.45** Film: From Russia with Love. (1963) **3.00** Live FA Cup Football. **5.50** Regional Programme: Weather.

6.00 **ITV News:** Weather.

6.15 **Dancing on Ice.** The nine remaining celebrities continue their quest to be named the ultimate Dancing on Ice champion, and Torvill and Dean perform a routine in collaboration with Rebecca Ferguson. The results are at 8.30pm.

7.45 **All Star Family Fortunes.** Brian Mcadden and Diane Parish take part.

8.30 **Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off.** Another star skater is eliminated.

9.00 **Mr Selfridge.** A protest stirs up emotions among the staff, with some asking whether Harry will leave if war breaks out, while Lord Loxley thwarts Lady Mae's plans to escape to the country.

10.00 **ITV News at Ten:** Weather.

10.15 **Birds of a Feather.** The girls become involved with three very different men. (R)

10.45 **FA Cup Football Highlights.** Action from today's fourth-round matches.

11.45 **Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union.**

12.45 **The 2.45** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **4.10** ITV Nightvision. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Snowdonia Marathon. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** How I Met Your Mother. **1.55** How I Met Your Mother. **2.20** The Simpsons. (R) **2.50** The Simpsons. (R) **3.20** Deal or No Deal. **4.25** Channel 4 News. **4.55** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R)

6.00 **Film: Mirror Mirror.** (2012) Premiere. An exiled princess joins forces with a band of dwarfs to wrest back her father's kingdom from her stepmother. Fantasy, with Julia Roberts.

8.00 **The Jump.** New series. Celebrities battle it out in a series of challenging winter sport disciplines and two of them face a live ski jump each night to keep their place in the competition. Continues tomorrow.

9.00 **Film: Unstoppable.** (2010) Two train operators must stop a runaway locomotive carrying toxic chemicals before it causes a major disaster. Action thriller, with Denzel Washington.

10.50 **Film: GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra.** (2009) Two soldiers join a top-secret military strike force to battle terrorists who have stolen a deadly experimental weapon. Action adventure, with Channing Tatum.

1.05 **Mesh: Tourist Trap.** (R) **1.10** Night Walking. (R) **1.15** Film: Day Watch. (2006) **3.25** Southland. (R)

4.10 **Enough.** (R) **4.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **5.10** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.30** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Floorties. (R) **6.30** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloë's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** Lazy Town. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.45** The Town the Travellers Took Over. (R) **11.40** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.40** Terror in the Skies: Scariest Flights. (R) **1.40** Road Terror: Caught on Camera. (R) **2.40** Film: Bewitched. (2005) **4.00** Film: Fairytale: A True Story. (1997)

6.35 **Film: Outbreak.** (1995) An expert in infectious diseases searches for the cure for a lethal airborne virus threatening to turn into a pandemic. Thriller, with Dustin Hoffman.

8.50 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction.** Another housemate is given the boot.

10.00 **Film: Harry Brown.** (2009) Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine.

11.55 **Autopsy: Anna Nicole Smith's Last Hours.** (R)

12.55 **SuperCasino.** **3.10** My Post-Baby Breakdown: Jennifer Ellison. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jazz. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jazz. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You. **7.45** The Voice UK. **9.00** Sun. Sex and Suspicious Parents: Thailand. **10.00** Family Guy. **10.45** Uncle. **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Hidden Histories: Britain's Oldest Family Businesses. **8.00** The Review Show. **9.00** Storyville: The Big Melt – How Steel Made Us Hard. **10.10** Film: We Are What We Are (2010). **11.35** Horror Europa with Mark Gatiss

ITV2
2.40 Film: Miss Congeniality (2000) **4.00** Film: Peter Pan (2003) **7.00** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **9.00** The Magulaf Weekender **10.00** Film: The Bourne Supremacy (2004)

ITV3
2.40 Film: Columbo: Troubled Waters (1975) **4.40** Agatha Christie's Marple. **6.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot. **9.00** Film: Intolerable Cruelty (2003) **11.05** Cracker

ITV4
2.00 Film: Aces High (1976) **4.15** Film: Dunkirk (1958) **7.00** Storage Wars. **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. **9.00** Film: Hard Target (1993) **11.00** Hell on Wheels. **11.55** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010)

E4
4.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **5.00** The Tomorrow People. **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **6.30** The Big Bang Theory. **8.00** Film: Furry Vengeance (2010) **9.50** Rude Tube. **2012** **10.50** 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncut. **11.40** The Big Bang Theory

3.00 The 7th Voyage of Sinbad. (1958) **4.45** Dr Dollittle (1998) **6.25** The Way Back (2010) **9.00** Kick-Ass (2010) **11.20** The Black Dahlia (2006)

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Film Choices

MONDAY

Carolina Moon, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman returns to her home town, where she discovers that the killer of her childhood friend is still terrorising the community, and embarks on a mission to track him down before he claims another life. However, while trying to capture the murderer, romance unexpectedly blossoms between her and the handsome older brother of her deceased friend. Romantic mystery, starring Claire Forlani and Oliver Hudson. (2007)

TUESDAY

Little Voice, BBC1, 11.35pm

A painfully shy woman has a talent for impersonating famous performers including Shirley Bassey, Marilyn Monroe and Judy Garland. She is spotted by a greedy promoter who instinctively realises her considerable money-spinning potential, but the shrinking violet proves reluctant to step into the limelight. Comedy drama, with Jane Horrocks and Michael Caine. (1998)

WEDNESDAY

Fatal Trust, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A widow returns to the small town where she grew up to recover from her grief at the loss of her husband, and gets a job as a secretary to the local doctor. She becomes suspicious about the surprising number of patients who die after treatment, and becomes convinced the seemingly kind medic is poisoning them. Crime drama, starring Amy Jo Johnson. (2006)



The Siege, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY

A Trick of the Mind, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A woman discovers a private eye is spying on her husband. When she confronts the detective, he claims her spouse is holding secrets back and that her life is in danger if she remains with him. She faces a dilemma over who to believe and how to uncover the truth without revealing her suspicions. Thriller, starring Alexandra Holden and Stacy Grant. (2006)

FRIDAY

The Siege, Channel 5, 10pm

New York is placed under martial law after a series of bombings and hijackings involving hundreds of casualties causes widespread panic, prompting a desperate bid by the FBI to find the terrorist cell responsible before full-scale civil unrest takes hold of the city. Thriller, starring Denzel Washington. (1998)

Saw IV, Channel 4, 11.20pm

Sadistic killer Jigsaw is dead, but FBI agents discover he has an accomplice who is continuing his fiendish games. Horror sequel, starring Costas Mandylor, Athena Karkanis, Scott Patterson, Tobin Bell and Betsy Russell. (2007)

Pick of the Week

Ice cool celebrities face a wintery challenge

Is there really space in our schedules for yet another celebrities-under-the-microscope series?

Dancing on Ice's final series is still on air, and we've only just said farewell to the latest run of Celebrity Big Brother. We've even had a brief run of a celeb-themed Great British Bake Off recently.

But Channel 4 clearly think we need to see more famous faces out of their comfort zone – and the dozen handpicked for this new sporting reality show, hosted by Davina McCall and Alex Brooker, will definitely be that.

With the start of Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, just a couple of weeks away, the broadcaster will be trying to get us in the mood for more snow and ice-based action by revealing how 12 familiar folk get on as they undergo rigorous instruction in seven winter sports – skeleton, bobsleigh, speed skating, speed skiing, skier cross, slalom and ski jump – before competing against each other.

Liam Humphreys, Channel 4's head of factual entertainment, says of the show: "This promises to be a hugely

entertaining and ambitious event and we can't wait to take both our contestants and the audience on a white knuckle, vertigo-inducing ride."

Those taking part are former rower Steve Redgrave, ex-cricketer Darren Gough, comedian Marcus Brigstocke, hairdresser Nicky Clarke, party promoter Henry Corney, Sive's Ritchie Neville, ex-Pussycat Doll Kimberly Wyatt, Essex girl Amy Childs, singer Sinitta, and TV presenters Anthea Turner, Melinda Messenger and Laura Hamilton.

They've been taken to a European destination for filming, where Winter Olympians Graham Bell and Amy Williams have been putting them through their paces. We'll get to see how they're getting on via on-piste reports and slow-motion footage of them in action.

We may also get to see two other stars on the slopes. The original line-up included socialist Tara Palmer-Tomkinson and Flash Gordon actor Sam Jones. They were replaced by Hamilton and Neville respectively; Palmer-Tomkinson withdrew after deciding the contest wasn't for her, while Jones was forced to quit by

injury, which is a shame – those of us who grew up in the 1970s and 1980s would have loved to have seen how 'Flash' dealt with life on the slopes.

Both celebs did take part in some training, so hopefully we'll get to see some of it in the first programme.

Even those with only scant knowledge of sport will have realised that there's more potential for danger in this show than in, say Dancing on Ice or Strictly Come Dancing. But it's the final challenge that really sends shivers down the spine.

The programme will be broadcast over nine consecutive nights, and whichever duo score the lowest number of points in each edition must take part in the terrifying ski jump to secure their place in the contest.

Good job Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards is on hand with advice...

"The format is simple and compelling; the scale is enormous," says executive producer Andrew MacKenzie. "I'm looking forward to seeing our first skier patiently waiting at the top of a large ski jump ramp."

Arent we all?



The Jump, Sunday, Channel 4, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Britain's Great War BBC1, 9pm

As Britain prepares to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, some politicians and historians have expressed concern that too many of us seem to have based our understanding of the conflict on repeats of Blackadder Goes Forth. Hopefully, they won't have quite so many objections to this new four-part series, which has been co-produced with The Open University, and looks at the role 'The Great War' played in creating Britain as we know it. In the opening episode, Jeremy Paxman charts the early stages of the war, including the mass recruitment of volunteer soldiers. But he also looks at how it affected the people left at home, who were gripped by a terror of invasion, seeing spies everywhere.

TUESDAY

Death in Paradise BBC1, 9pm

The focus of this week's show is Fidel's suave old school friend, Carlton Parish, who he sees at an art gallery with Dorothy Foster, a wealthy older woman. When he is later shot at home, Humphrey and the team dig deeper into the case, and discover Parish was an escort who broke many a heart during his work. A local judge and the wife of a club owner are among his unhappy customers. However, as more secrets are revealed, Fidel has a hard time keeping a lid on his emotions, and he to confront some long-buried issues. Kris Marshall and Gary Carr

head the cast, while Josette Simon is among the guest stars.

Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans ITV, 9pm

You can run but you can't hide from Paul O'Grady. He's everywhere at the moment, and luckily for us animal-loving softies, he's usually accompanied by a furry friend or three. This latest series has taken the presenter's own passion for animals and blown it up on a much bigger scale, sending him to South Africa and Zambia to meet animals that have been orphaned in the wild. But like all good things, it must come to an end, and in tonight's final episode, Paul is at Chimpenbele Animal Rescue, where he meets Douglas, a hippo calf who was found at five months old wandering alone near the Zambezi River. He also bottle feeds milk to a baby giraffe, and spends time with his favourite baby elephant, Nakala.

WEDNESDAY

Celebrity Big Brother: The Final Channel 5, 9pm

It seems like no time at all since the latest raft of celebs entered the house, but already it's time for the nail-biting finale as Emma Willis whittles the remaining housemates down until this year's winner is known. And while it may have only lasted a few weeks, we've had no end of memorable moments – some of which we only wish we could scrub from our minds (and many of them involving Jasmine). We've had

romance, we've had tears, and we've had a heavyweight boxer covered in gunge – it's all part for the course in Hertfordshire's most famous bungalow. But now, after three weeks of nominations, tasks and evictions, it's all about to come to a dramatic end.

Horizon: Sugar v Fat BBC2, 9pm

Chances are for the past month, post-Christmas, we've all been hitting the gym and carefully monitoring the foods we're putting in our body. It's all very well counting the calories, but what harm is all the sugar and fat in those foods really doing? Doctors Chris and Xand van Tulleken are identical twins, and for the purpose of this programme, are going on month-long diets containing high volumes of fat or sugar to determine which is worse for the human body. The effects on their health prove to be shocking and surprising, however the docs also realise that their biggest enemy may have been staring them in the face the whole time. This is a must-see for all those intent on getting their bodies in tip-top shape this year...



Celebrity Big Brother: The Final, Wednesday, Channel 5, 9pm

THURSDAY

Dan Snow's History of the Winter Olympics BBC2, 9pm

When the BBC began looking for a historian to present a programme looking back at 90 years of the Winter Olympics, how long do you think it took them to come up with Dan Snow? After all, he does have the perfect name for the job. This one-off documentary proves he has the knowledge too, as he travels across nine countries to learn more about how the Winter Games took shape and how it was affected by politics, whether it was due to Nazism or the tense rivalries of the Cold War. The tension between East and West arguably culminated in the emotional Olympics of Sarajevo in 1984, where Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean skated to victory on the strains of Bolero.

FRIDAY

Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Martin Kemp ITV, 9pm

Martin Kemp's done rather a lot in his 52 years – enjoyed a lengthy pop life with Spandau Ballet, played iconic villain Steve Owen in EastEnders and even found himself a Celebrity Big Brother finalist – but chances are he's still got plenty of stories to tell given that he's taking to the hotseat in Piers Morgan's studio. Like the fact that he almost died after finding out about a brain tumour which needed major surgery. He talks of the highs and lows of being in one of the most successful groups to emerge from the New Romantic era, his performance in The Krays (both alongside brother Gary of course), and exactly why he owes friend George Michael big time.

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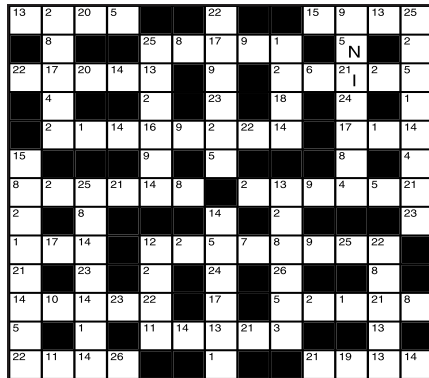
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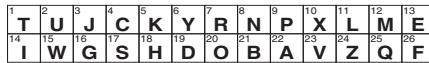
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

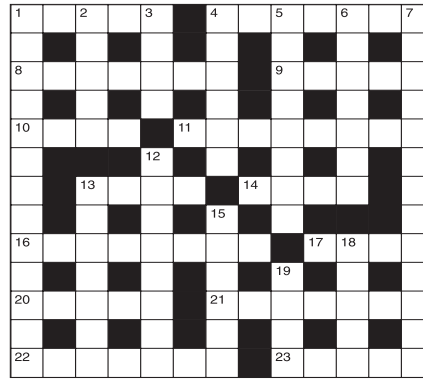
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Contemplates the patrons of the liberal arts (5)
4. Wanted: a title of respect in the legal paper (7)
8. Officially he's only a beginner (7)
- 9 & 15 Dn. This is used to keep the blades close to the ground (5-6)
10. Require a piece of fine edging (4)
11. Subordinate made to supply an inadequate crew (8)
13. In imprisonment I escaped the bonds (4)
14. A number of horses requiring endless mental application (4)
16. Plausibly deceptive speculation followed by debts (8)
17. Food and money for the journey required (4)
20. What friends do is correspond (5)
21. One among a variety of cattle perceptive to touch (7)
22. Goddess encountered among the stages (7)
23. In the tennis game he is like lightning! (5)

Down

1. Get the wrong message? (13)
2. Government to make an announcement... (5)
3. ...it's disturbed by eastern position (4)
4. Venturing to put up an advertisement near the arena (6)
5. Get mess put right around northern parts of the sphere (8)
6. Took warlike measures - provided with new members? (7)
7. Breaking off action, but Sid is returning to battle! (13)
12. One who's in a sorry state (8)
13. More confused after the mathematical proof (7)
15. See 9 Across
18. Chemical coming from a hole in the ground (5)
19. Dramatises part of the New Testament (4)



Quick Clues:

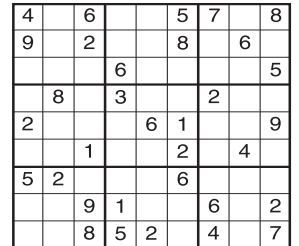
Across

1. Horrify (5)
4. Feign (7)
8. Sentinel (4-3)
9. Tartan (5)
10. Joy (4)
11. Clumsy (8)
13. Brought up (4)
14. Gentle (4)
16. Conducive to health (8)
17. Droop (4)
20. Nimble (5)
21. Outstanding (7)
22. Dulcify (7)
23. Clothe (5)

Down

1. Quarrelling (2,11)
2. Verify (5)
3. Plunder (4)
4. Powerful (6)
5. Clearly stated (8)
6. Made possible (7)
7. Crane-fly (5-4-4)
12. Forcible (8)
13. Deceive (7)
15. Repudiate (6)
18. Shelf (5)
19. Look after (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	4	5	2	9	1	6	8	3
9	8	3	6	5	4	7	2	1
1	2	6	7	8	3	4	9	5
1	2	7	4	3	8	5	6	9
3	9	4	5	6	2	1	7	8
5	6	8	1	7	9	2	3	4
8	5	1	3	2	7	9	4	6
6	7	9	8	4	5	3	1	2
4	3	2	9	1	6	8	5	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Dramatist; 8 Date; 9 Masterful; 10 Cellar; 11 Cheat; 14 Tempo; 15 Note; 16 Reach; 18 Oath; 20 Overt; 21 Earth; 24 Strain; 25 Pin-points; 26 Scan; 27 Degrading. Down: 1 Education; 2 Stalemate; 4 Rear; 5 Match; 6 Tartan; 7 Soul; 9 Major; 11 Crash; 12 Tolerance; 13 Pertinent; 17 Hosts; 19 Hamper; 22 Tried; 23 Line; 24 Sten. QUICK - Across: 3 Qualified; 8 Nail; 9 Aggregate; 10 Obvious; 11 Fears; 14 Range; 15 Echo; 16 Stiff; 18 Cues; 20 Ample; 21 Dandy; 24 Plaintiff; 25 Frivolous; 26 Hail; 27 Depressed. Down: 1 Incorrect; 2 Distended; 4 Urge; 5 Large; 6 Figure; 7 Eats; 9 Asses; 11 Fairy; 12 Sceptical; 13 Forestry; 17 Falls; 19 Salver; 22 Dulls; 23 Free; 24 Pure.



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12 MOON - 5 ENTRY
Friday 7th February
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Saturday 8th February
CHESTER RIGGON THE SOUL MAN
Saturday 15th February
DEBBIE DEE FEMALE VOCALIST

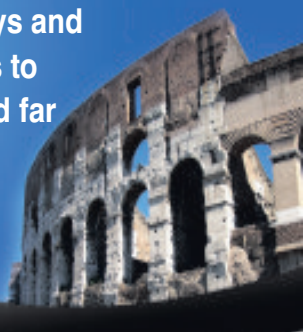
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Saturday 14th March
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Saturday 15th March
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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
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Kia goes from strength to strength



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SINCE its launch in 2010 the Kia Sportage has proved itself as a car to be reckoned with in the crossover sector, selling over 20,800 models in 2013 and 47,064 since its launch in the UK.

The 2014 Sportage is available to pre-order now and available in showrooms from February.

Kia's designers have added a package of styling and equipment upgrades to its crossover to keep it at the forefront of this booming sector. The Sportage is Kia's best-selling model in the UK, claiming around a quarter of the company's sales.

Ian Mathews head of product planning, Kia Motors UK Ltd, commenting on the 2014 Sportage model said: "With the adage 'if it ain't broke...' at the back of our minds we looked carefully at what changes to make to the line-up for the 2014 Sportage to ensure that what customers love about their cars is kept and for enhancements to the line-up to add appeal and diversity.

"We've listened to our dealers and customers and by adding more engine options at the entry and top-of-the-range as well as incorporating new technologies such as



Trailer Stability Assist across all models we are taking standard specification levels to those expected on premium brands."

The 2014 line up is based on the outgoing models trim designation with added specifications and design elements including enhanced versions of Kia's 'tiger-nosed' grille across the range with upgrades from painted to chrome sur-



rounds as well as new styling to the central radiator mesh design. Inside, a new soft 'nano' paint finish has been added to the dashboard and centre console and there is now centre console illumination and soft-touch upper door trims. A heated steering wheel and a six-way power adjustable driver's seat have been added to top spec models.

A 4.2-inch TFT LCD supervision cluster is mounted

between the recessed dials of the newly designed dual-bezel instrument display has been added to selected grades. An Infinity premium audio system, available on Sportage for the first time is fitted to higher grades.

All versions now have Trailer Stability Assist to help make towing safer. A Tyre Pressure Monitoring System is now standard to alert the driver to any significant under-inflation.

Two new variants at the top and bottom have been added to the 16 car line up to further broaden the appeal to customers – an all-wheel drive 2.0 CRDi entry level and the 1.7 CRDi turbodiesel is an option on the top spec two-wheel drive model.

The 1.6-litre direct-injection petrol unit and 1.7-litre turbodiesel made their debuts in the Sportage and are the mainstays of the range in the UK. They come as standard with a six-speed manual gearbox, while with the 2.0-litre engines buyers are offered the choice of six-speed manual or six-speed automatic. The Dymax intelligent all-wheel-drive system is standard on every 2.0-litre model.

Kia engineers conducted final testing on UK roads to ensure that the all-independent suspension delivers agile and safe handling and an absorbent and comfortable ride, despite the unique, challenging demands that British roads present.

In keeping with every Kia, the Sportage comes with the company's industry leading seven-year or 100,000-mile warranty, subject to certain wear and tear conditions. It is fully transferable should the car be sold before the time or mileage limits have been reached.

The Sportage is available with Kia's Care-3 and Care-3 Plus servicing package, offering retail customers fixed-cost, inflation-proof servicing for the first three or five years.

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Fuel consumption figures for CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 31.7 (8.9), Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2), Combined 39.2 (7.2). CO₂ emissions: 168g/km; for Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO₂ emissions: 129g/km; for Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6), Combined 53.3 (5.3). CO₂ emissions: 123g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Models shown: CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,495 On The Road; Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £16,995 On The Road; Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,995 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £269 per month example shown based on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £17,895 total cash price including 5 Year Care Plan at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £4,556.64 (19%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £8,854.53, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 5p per mile; New retail Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £209 per month example shown based on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £17,895 total cash price including 5 Year Care Plan at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £4,556.64 (19%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £8,854.53, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 5p per mile; New retail Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. The advertised saving of £1,200 (including VAT) discount to the OTR price for the Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S applied to the retail invoice. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £140 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,995. Total cash price including 5 Year Care Package (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £1,795.20 (16%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £4,159.72, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 9QD. The 5 Year Care Package includes: **Servicing:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary HondaCare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,545 including VAT) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.6 LS: Urban 31.4, Extra-Urban 51.4, Combined 41.5, CO₂ 159 g/km and for the Orlando 1.8 LS: Urban 30.7, Extra-Urban 49.5, Combined 40.3, CO₂ 164 g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

Pictures for illustration purposes only. Models shown are a Chevrolet Cruze LS Hatchback and Estate and a Chevrolet Orlando 1.8 LS. Vehicles shown features metallic paint at an extra cost of £470. *Savings shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Savings available on other Chevrolet models. Valid for retail registrations only. Offers available until 31st March 2014 while stocks last. 0% APR Representative. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Santander Consumer (UK) plc, RH1 1SR or GMAC PO BOX 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Prices correct at time of print. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock.

Commercial feature

Motoring

Hyundai is aiming to top of the city class

By David Banner

HYUNDAI'S quest for constant improvement means that it's set a high bar for itself with the latest version of its smallest car, the i10.

Is the Korean company's reputation for quality still apparent at this price point?

Hyundai is looking for its i10 city car to step up from being merely branded good value for money to being considered best in class – or thereabouts. With smart styling, plenty of pace inside, strong equipment levels and a focus on refinement, it's in with a genuine shot.

Sometimes, the stars just align perfectly for a car manufacturer. Such was the case back in 2009 when two largely unrelated circumstances coincided. The introduction of the Government's Scrappage Scheme saw a number of tired old cars being taken off our roads and resulted in a commensurate quantity of buyers with a modest sum of cash in their hands looking for something to buy. Fairly new onto the market and having just replaced the underwhelming Amica was the rather appealing Hyundai i10. Sales skyrocketed and for a while, the i10 was the country's best selling car. It didn't last. While i10 sales continued quite strongly, the end of the Scrappage Scheme saw buyers return to their usual buying habits.

Since then, Hyundai has tried hard to keep citycar buyers interested. It updated the engine choice in that MK1 model and facelifted the car a little in 2010, even resisting the temptation to significantly increase its bargain basement pricing. By the end of 2013 though, with over five years being a fairly decent innings for a car in this class, it was time for something fresh.

Stronger

Step forward the second generation i10. It arrives to find that competition in the citycar sector has become much stronger in the last few years, with this Hyundai now having to contend with cars of the quality of the Volkswagen up!, Skoda Citigo and SEAT Mii triplets. In other words it'll have to be excellent to even get a look in.

Hyundai didn't go big on choice when the first i10 was launched. Everyone got a 67PS 1.1-litre petrol engine and that was their lot.

That engine was subsequently upgraded to a 1.2-litre powerplant and it's this unit that carries over into the latest car, albeit mildly tweaked to offer better efficiency numbers and now developing 87PS, good for 62mph in 12.3s on the way to 106mph. Customers are also offered a 66PS 1.0-litre engine at the entry level which makes 62mph in 14.9s on the way to 96mph.

There's still no diesel engine offered and it's probably a sound decision. Buyers of this type of car rarely rack up enough miles to make the incremental cost of buying a diesel worth out versus the savings they'd see in fuel bills.

As with 95 per cent of Hyundai cars sold in Europe, this i10 has been designed and developed at the Hyundai Motor Europe Technical Centre in Russelsheim, Germany, and is built at Hyundai's factory in Izmit, Turkey.

It's a bigger thing than its predecessor, adding 80mm to the length and 65mm to the width. It sits 50mm lower too, helping it avoid the Noddy-car look of many citycars.

Inside, the i10 offers best-in-class legroom and cargo capacity. Front and rear passengers benefit from combined legroom of 1,890mm, while boot capacity has been boosted by more than 10 per cent to 252-litres with all seats in place.

It's sobering to think that this car is priced at just under £8,500, some 30 per cent higher than when its predecessor debuted in 2007.

There's a choice of three trim levels - S, SE and Premium - and at SE level, there's an extra £500 to pay if you want the 1.2-litre engine rather than the 1.0-litre unit. At entry-level, you get the basics - central locking, electric front windows, CD tuner + USB, Daytime Running Lights, ISOfix and tilt adjust steering wheel as standard.

● For more information or to book a test drive contact Sandon Road Motors in Stafford on 01785 248899 or visit www.sandonhyundai.co.uk



New Generation i10

If it had ears, they would be burning

High praise indeed from the big names in the motoring press. And they're not the only ones being complimentary about the New Generation i10. Available from 30th January 2014, it won't be long before you can have your say.

To find out more about the city car everyone's talking about, visit sandonhyundai.co.uk



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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for New Generation i10 range: Urban 35.3 (8.0) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1) – 76.3 (3.7), Combined 45.6 (6.2) – 65.7 (4.3), CO₂ Emissions 142 – 98 g/km. Fuel consumption figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results. 5 Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Visit www.hyundai.co.uk/owning or ask your local dealer.



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Motoring

Iconic model will return in summer

IT seems like only yesterday when the last WRX STI was sold in the UK amid an outcry of sentiment on the sad loss of this iconic model. Less than a year on, Subaru UK says the new WRX STI is coming to these shores in summer.

The good news for performance car fans around the country is that as a result of recent movements in exchange rates, the new model will be priced at a competitive £28,995 when it hits showrooms in May, £4,000 cheaper than its predecessor.

Unveiled at the Detroit motor show this week the new WRX STI is based on the WRX saloon car launched at the LA show in November, but with some significant enhancements.

During development, Subaru honed the drivability of the new WRX STI to perfection, testing it under a wide variety of conditions around the world. As with past generations of the model, extensive testing also took place on Germany's Nürburgring circuit to ensure the WRX STI is the pinnacle of Subaru AWD sports performance.

Slicker

At its heart is a 2.5 litre turbo-charged Subaru Boxer four-pot engine, which in STI guise, produces 305hp and 290lb/ft of torque. The six-speed gearbox has been reinforced and now adopts even shorter throw and slicker, sportier shift feel.

Subaru's trademark Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive employs the latest vehicle dynamics control (VDC) and Active Torque Vectoring for maximum control and driver engagement. Spring and damper rates have been meticulously re-tuned to provide a more compliant ride while retaining body composure, and the electronic power steering is now mounted on a more rigid steering



gearbox mount for improved fuel efficiency and more 'direct' feel and response.

An increase in wheelbase of 25mm gives the new WRX STI greater rear leg room as well as more shoulder and elbow room inside the cabin, without increasing the exterior dimensions. By moving the bottom of the A-pillars forward by 200mm and adding a quarter light to the front window, drivers have better visibility all round. Boot space is increased and ingress and egress are improved with larger door apertures.

A lot of work has also gone into improving the perceived quality of the WRX STI interior. For the new model, highlights include a new D-shaped steering wheel of smaller diameter and designed

to give the driver maximum feel. Soft touch materials are used in key areas while new dials and carbon effect and metal trim is also employed to give the STI both a suitably sporty feel and more upmarket ambience.

UK buyers can expect a comprehensive standard spec, in addition to changes over the WRX on the exterior design including the large signature rear wing and larger diameter wheels.

Subaru UK will be launching a dedicated area of its website (www.subaru.co.uk) where prospective owners can register their interest. Subaru in Japan has confirmed that a Fuji Heavy Industries entered STI will compete in this year's Nurburgring 24hr race in June.

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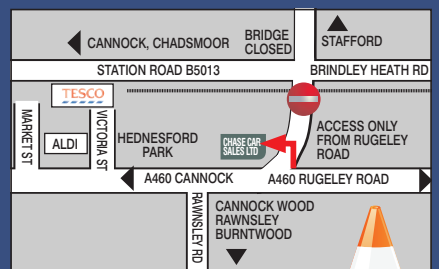
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Motoring

Sports model to be unveiled at US show

LEXUS revealed the new RC F at the North American International Auto Show this week, a sports thoroughbred model based on the RC coupe which made its debut in Tokyo in November.

The RC F is equipped with a new 5.0-litre V8 engine with a maximum output set to be well above 450bhp. Its status as the most powerful V8 road-going car Lexus has yet built is reflected in styling optimised for stability at high speeds, including wider wheels and tyres, an active rear wing, air scoops, cooling ducts and carbon-fibre components.

Each element delivers what Lexus calls 'functional beauty' to the overall design.

Contribute

"The form of each component is carefully designed to contribute to performance," said Yukihiko Yaguchi, RC F chief engineer.

"Unique air outlets in the bonnet and rear section of the front wings contribute to optimum engine cooling and handling stability."

"They create a powerful look that immediately conveys the expectation of a dynamic driving experience."

The signature Lexus spindle grille dominates the front of the RC F, with a single F mesh section that extends all the way from the bonnet line to the lower lip.

The bonnet is set higher than on the RC, helping create a powerful, flared profile true to the ethos of Lexus's F models.

Ducts beneath the front bumper and wings, and strategically placed aerodynamic stabilising fins create a stance



that further broadcasts the model's Lexus F pedigree.

Outlets to the rear of the front wings form an L shape where they merge with the side sill extensions. The car's powerful character is also expressed in stacked, trapezoidal quad-outlet tailpipes.

The RC F displays design cues taken from the LFA supercar. An active rear wing automatically deploys at 80km/h (50mph) and retracts when speed falls below 40km/h (25mph), preserving the coupe's svelte lines at standstill.

Three variations of a 10-spoke, 19in forged aluminium wheel design will be available, according to grade, including a set hand-polished by craftsmen.

Inside, the instrument panel is dominated by a central dial, which automatically adapts in line with the coupe's four different driving modes. In each case different information colour and text size are displayed.

To help ensure comfort, Lexus produced a new steering wheel design, with an elliptical cross-section, a thick grip and optimum location of shift paddles.

The high-back seats are also new: finished with an embossed F on the headrests, their styling is inspired in part by modern high-tech athletic sportswear.

Five leather trims will be available, all with contrast stitching.

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*Rapid Spaceback S 1.2 TSI 86PS starts from £14,340 OTR. Model shown is ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback 1.2 TSI 105PS SE with optional Corrida Red paint, Sunset glass and Style pack (includes panoramic roof, extended tailgate glass, black door mirrors, black cornering front fog lights and black rear lights). Model shown also features optional accessory alloy wheels. Model shown is not UK spec. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA Rapid range: Urban 38.2 (7.4) to 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) to 83.1 (3.4); Combined 48.7 (5.8) to 74.3 (3.8). CO₂ emissions for the new ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback 134 to 99 g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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Motoring



Mazda leads the field in sales of new cars

MAZDA UK saw sales grow by 19 per cent in 2013 from 2012 levels, driven by strong demand for the Mazda CX-5 crossover and Mazda6 saloon and Tourer.

Mazda's performance is well ahead of the industry which reported overall sales up 10.8 per cent last year, according to SMMT figures.

Mazda's sales for the second half of the year were up 40 per cent and there was a huge surge in the final quarter when sales grew by 50 per cent over the same period a year earlier.

With all-new Mazda3 arriving in showrooms from the beginning of this month, the momentum of the final quarter is forecast to continue in 2014. This will predominantly be driven by the growing range and appeal of

models with SKYACTIV technology, which will represent over two thirds of the total volume.

"We have had great reports from our dealer network from last weekend's launch activity for Mazda3 with significant orders taken," said Mazda UK managing director Jeremy Thomson (pictured).

Outperform

He expects the all-new Mazda3 and the continuing success of Mazda6 and Mazda CX-5 to defy convention and outperform the industry again in 2014 with sales growing by around ten per cent in what is expected to be a relatively flat market.

The driving forces of 2013 were the SKYACTIV duo of Mazda6 and CX-5. Sales of Mazda CX-5 more than doubled from 2012 levels to some 6,000 units while Mazda6 sales grew by 44

per cent, also reaching close to 6,000 units.

Mazda believes around a third of all new model Mazda6 buyers are switching, from or had actively considered buying, traditional premium brands.

"The brand continues to strengthen and our new range of models has very broad appeal," said Thomson.

This success is reflected in the growth in core fleet sales, up 60 per cent in 2013 over 2012, led by demand for Mazda6. Despite this success, Mazda is still a strong retail brand, with two retail sales for every fleet sale reinforcing Mazda's appeal as a franchise of choice for dealer groups looking to expand their manufacturer portfolio.

Mazda's total sales in 2013 were 31,230, up from 26,280 in 2012 and the brand was one of the fastest growing in 2013.



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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the new Kia 'VR7' range are: Urban 32.1 (8.8) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined 42.8 (6.6) – 67.3 (4.2). CO2 emissions are 148 – 99 g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. Price and specification is subject to change without notice. *Models shown: Picanto 3-dr 'VR7' 1.0 68bhp 5-speed manual @ £8,795 including customer saving of £750 and excluding optional metallic paint at £455; Rio 5-dr 'VR7' 1.4 98bhp 6-speed manual @ £11,095 including customer saving of £1,000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £475; Cee'd 5-dr 'VR7' 1.4 98bhp 6-speed manual @ £13,995 including customer saving of £1,000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £495. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Ask your dealer for full details. 13 years' servicing (Kia Care-3) for £99 offer is only valid on applicable 'VR7' models. logonto.kia.co.uk/care3 for full details. Subject to availability on vehicles registered before 31 March 2014. Participating dealers only. †4.9% APR representative available on Kia Conditional Sale on Picanto, Rio and Cee'd models. 10% minimum deposit required on Cee'd models. Maximum term of 36 months. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantees / indemnities may be required. Kia Motors Finance RMI 15R. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Ask your dealer for full details.

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family announcements continued from the previous page

PLATT

Barry

Sadly passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2014.

Much loved Father, Grandfather and Partner to Margaret.

He will be missed by his Family, Friends and all who knew him.

His Funeral Service will take place on Monday, January 27, at 11am, at Stafford Crematorium.

It was Barry's wish that nobody should wear all black and the Family would appreciate if everyone wore something colourful in his memory.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if desired, for Cancer Research and Air Ambulance c/o

A.J. Griffin
Family Funeral Directors
26 Church Street,
Cannock, SP11 1JH
01543 502322

STANTON

Joyce Kathleen

Sadly passed away on Monday, January 13, at St Giles Hospice, Walsall.

Reunited with her devoted Husband, Norman.

Joyce will be sadly missed by her loving Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service will take place on Thursday, January 30, at 11am, at Christ Church, Blakenall Heath, followed by private Burial and refreshments at The Ivy House, Stafford Road, Nr Blomwich.

Everyone who knew Joyce is welcome.

Joyce will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

Flowers for Joyce or donations for St Giles Hospice will be received by the family or c/o

CO-OPERATIVE FUNERALCARE,

154a High Street,

Blomwich,

Walsall

WS3 3JT

'Peace after Pain'

TAYLOR

Derek William

Husband, Dad and Grandad

Passed away January 12, 2014, aged 80 years.

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be, so He put His arms around you and whispered 'come with Me.' With tearful eyes we watched you slowly fade away, although we loved you dearly, we would not make you stay.

We know you felt our kisses, as we said our last goodbye, all our hearts are broken, why did you have to die. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

Love always, Sylvia, Jan, Rick, Cray, Sam, Richard, Dave.

in memoriam

Husband

PERRY

David

Seven years, January 26.

Loving Husband, Dad and Grandad.

Forever in our hearts, we miss you so much Dave.

Love, Jenny, Diane and Families.

XX

acknowledgements

MOORE

Fred

Passed away December 26, 2013.

Robert, Linda, Andrew and Families would like to thank everyone who attended Fred's Funeral, for messages of sympathy, flowers and generous donations totalling £546, to The Walsall Manor Hospital Oncology Dept.

Our sincere thanks to you all.

birthdays

Beth ALICE WARD

Wishing you a

HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY

On Sunday, January 26.

We are so very proud of you.

Enjoy your party on Friday and have a great weekend.

Lots of love, Mom, Dad & all the Family XXX

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07814 266988

LAURAS TACK BOX Largest stockist of new/secondhand saddlery and riding wear in the Midlands. 07949 943933, 01543 277688.

RIDING LESSONS, gift vouchers, Grey days, Junction 3 M54 Junction Riding School. Call 07884 495493

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from the kind of establishment.

BLACK PUG
8 weeks old, KC registered, flead, wormed, had injections up to date, (black to black mating).
Please ring Mr Cole. 07734 806 063

CHICHEE Chihuahua x Chinese Crest 3 weeks, boy, loving home only. £250. 01922 621726.

CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES KC applied. 3 boys, 1 tiny fawn, 1 fawn, 1 silver sable, 4 weeks insurance. £700. 01543 254104. 07759 801023.

HUSKEY PUPPIES, 11 weeks old, 2 beautiful pure females. Puppies for sale, £500 each. Ready now. Call 07923 134394.

SCOTTIE x Westie, home reared, 11 weeks old, ready now. 01785 747583. 07917 718443.

WANTED FOR A LOVING HOME MINIATURE DACHSHUND BITCH (dog considered), aged 1-6 years, long or short haired, prefer black and tan but other colours considered. 01922 691922/07935 244905.

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6 Property

accommodation to let

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Studios from £90pw
Rooms from £60pw
Includes Most Bills
Contractors Welcome
Check Website - Live List
WANTED LANDLORDS AND PROPERTIES
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mobile homes

OMAR MOBILE HOME
Size 45 x 12ft.
One bedroom, shower, bath. £88,500 ono.
01902 791248
07904 616210.

properties wanted

properties wanted

properties wanted

properties wanted

properties wanted

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properties wanted

We Buy Any House

We Pay 100% of Purchase Price

EVERY TIME

BC H
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

We are a family run local business.
A fair offer from people you can trust.
No fees - Free solicitors

Call Stan on **01902 628047**
or **0800 032 1718**

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We are a local independent Company
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- Any property
- Any condition
- Any area*
- Repossessions Stop
- Deceased estates

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Guaranteed offer*
Free solicitors - no fees*
*Subject to terms

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24/7
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In a mess? Talk in confidence We can help
A guaranteed offer* no fees* free solicitors
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Jobs

building & construction

EXPERIENCED FLOOR LAYER / FLOOR TILERS required. Possibility of long term employment for successful applicants. Email: Shaunobrien@totalfloor.co.uk. Tel: 01543 500151.

SCAFFOLDERS required to work with our existing team in the Cannock and surrounding areas. Applicants must hold a valid CISRS/CSCS card & be able to travel and have own transport. Gangs of 3 people preferable. Send CV to: info@alliedscfolding.co.uk or call 0161 633 0425 to register details

drivers

CLASS 1 DRIVER for local container work based Cannock/Willeshall area. Tel: 07789 66481.

engineering

EXPERIENCED PRESS BREAK Setter & Operator required at a commercial aluminium fabrication company based in Cannock. Experienced in using Edwards Pearson/Bystonic Press Breaks, reading architectural fabrication drawings & sheet metal work. Competitive hourly rate of pay. Please forward cv to sales@metalline.co.uk

TRAINEE FABRICATOR/WELDER required for Aluminium Roofing & Cladding Manufacturer based in Cannock. Experience is not necessary as full training will be given. Good prospects for the right applicant. Please Contact Mick Evans 01543 458537.

nursing & carers

ABBEY COURT NURSING HOME Require the following full time positions: DEPUTY MANAGER, CLINICAL LEAD, QUALIFIED NURSES, NIGHT CARE ASSISTANT - nights 01543 277358 for application form.

part time - general

NEED A SECOND INCOME? Deliver for Domino's Pizza Cannock, Rugeley, Stafford. Hourly pay + extra per delivery + tips. Own car, 18 yrs+ max 6 points. Call 07716 126311 9am-9pm

NEED AN EXTRA INCOME £200-£2,000pm - 0121 314 9652. www.bercher.info

sales & marketing

COLD CALLERS required to work from a buzzing Cannock based call centre. Part and Full Time positions available. Basic, plus bonus and commission. If you are ambitious and confident please text 'GIMME A JOB' followed by your name to 07951580028

courses

Westgate Driver Training

Delivering High Quality Driver Training For Over 40 Years



- 1-1 Gold Standard tuition
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DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
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7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY
CAR & TRAILER (B+E)
MINIBUS (D1)
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CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV
from 7th blocks - Full 35hrs
01902 744726 / 07831 646601

MTS HGV training, Willenhall. Minibus, 7.5 tonne C1 & car & trailer. 01902 866510 / 07807 035066

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

CHEVROLET MATIZ Jan 08, Blue, 11tr, 5DR, AC, alloys, new MoT 41k. Blue trim. £1995. 07573 18887.
FORD KA 1.3TDCI ZETEC, 09 reg, 34,725 miles, e/w, a/c, c/l, CD, alloys, £30 road tax per year, ish, £5,250 ono. 01543 674002.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

HONDA CRV 2.0ES
2001 77,300 miles, metal silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, ish, long MoT, new clutch, new exhaust, refurbished alloys.
£2,500 ono.
07976 733123.

PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Sport, 2008, red, tax and MoT'd, excellent condition, bargain, £2,350. 07977 737193. Cannock.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDERED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMA Established 25 Years
Small economical cars with full MoT's under £1000
Open every day.
Major credit cards accepted
www.bmamotors.co.uk
01902 490555 / 07553 358610
DALE STREET, BILSTON, WV14 2JY

CITROEN XSARA, 2002, 135,000 miles, green, MoT July, diesel, no tax, hence price £450 ono.
07991 684560.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2 5dr hatchback, W reg, 87K, MoT Apr, tax May, £350 ono. 07814 464693.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2, 8V, 2001 Y regn. green. Taxed, MoT, recent gear box and clutch. Excellent condition £750 ono. 07903 189354.

FORD FIESTA 1.25 Zetec, MoT Dec 2014, tax Jan 2014, petrol, black, 5-AC, AC, front EW, good condition, £725. 07910 027795.

FORD MONDEO 2ltr, Ghia Estate, 02 regn, silver, Tax April 30, MoT March 5, 125,230 miles. £795 ono. 01543 270514.

K11 MICRA 2002, Taxed and MoT. Good condition, £1,350 ono. 07530 682623.

RENAULT MEGANE CABRIOLET Silver, 2002, 1.6, MoT, 37,800 miles, 1 lady owner, FSH. £750. 01543 272958.

Vauxhall Corsa, 52 reg, alloys, full MoT, e/w, c/l, pas, 2 previous owners, extras, £1,295 ono. 01543 272958.

VW POLO 3dr, 1995, 1396cc, 114k, tax, MoT July, history, CL, EW, clean tidy car, any trial, £565. 0121 5262396

driving tuition

Home's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89 Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20 All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
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01562 870050 / 01384 234954
01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingtutor.co.uk

motorbikes
A WANTED MOTORCYCLES / SCOOTERS All models, All ages. Highways 01902 773608.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

1st CHOICE
TOP PRICE PAID A SCRAP CARS!
VANS! CAMPER! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED
FREE COLLECTION
WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
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07977 499516
07895 346811 - 24 hrs

WE PAY BEST for all scrap cars & vans
Scrap it legally Avoid fines
We supply a certificate of destruction.
Licence no: EAWM140301
No Worries Call Chris:
01902 493110 Daytime
0121 525 5813 / 7
01902 659775 - evenings

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TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
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vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars/vans. Call 01902 495758 / 07903 549849.

WANTED CHEAP CAR any make, clean, reliable, tax. Cheap from X reg onwards. 0122 06856.

WANTED low mileage Nissan Micra, also Landrover Discovery or similar 4 x 4. Cash waiting. 07424 573680

spares & accessories

vehicle security

CAR ALARMS PARKING SENSORS Hands free kits, free mobile service. Open 7 days over 30 years exp BSWC 01902 401139

9 Local Information

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)



CHESLYN HAY PARISH COUNCIL

CEMETERY OF CHESLYN HAY PARISH COUNCIL

This cemetery is maintained by Cheslyn Hay Parish Council.

- The Council have intent to apply to the Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield for a Faculty authorising the re-ordering of the cemetery. The works proposed are as follows:
- Make safe as soon as possible graves and other areas of the cemetery which have been assessed as presenting a possible trip or topple hazard, by means of temporary supports/laying flat/removal of any stones, pieces of broken masonry and other rubble. If it can be ascertained which grave these have come from, then they will be returned to the appropriate grave. Otherwise, they will be removed safely from the site.
- Where graves have a kerb surround and the slab top has collapsed, the infilling with soil to prevent tripping hazard. Where it is possible by reasonable endeavours to identify the grave family, attempts will be made to contact them direct. Where the relatives of the deceased cannot be so identified and the graves in question are assessed as posing an immediate health and safety risk to member of the public using the cemetery, application may be made to the Chancellor of the Diocese for a Licence to Proceed, authorising the carrying out of the works pending final approval from him by way of Faculty.
- The levelling of the ground and removal of trip hazards throughout the cemetery.
- The removal of kerb surrounds from graves for ease of maintenance.
- Other associated works which are necessary to ensure the safety of those using the cemetery.

If you wish to make any formal objections to the proposed works, you should do so in writing within 14 days of the date of this notice to:

Melanie Brown, Parish Clerk,
Cheslyn Hay Parish Council, The Village Hall, Pinfold Lane, Cheslyn Hay, WS6 7HP.
By: Melanie Brown - Parish Clerk
On behalf of Cheslyn Hay Parish Council
Dated : 23rd January 2014



ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED) ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

CANNOCK ROAD, CANNOCK DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC


NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council, on 21 January 2014, made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Cannock Road, Cannock between its junctions with Huntington Terrace Road and Sankey Road unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via Huntington Terrace Road, Arthur Street, Cannock Road and vice versa.

THE ORDER WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON 21 JANUARY 2014 AND WILL RUN BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9AM AND 5PM, AND THE SAID WORKS WILL COMMENCE ON OR AS NEAR AS PRACTICABLE TO THAT DATE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE WORKS WILL BE COMPLETED BY 31 JANUARY 2014.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the carriageway resurfacing works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road, have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director of Democracy, Law and Transformation
No. 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2LP
Ref: 524541; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre; Tel: 0300 111 8000
http://roadworks.org
Date: 23 January 2014



THE COUNCIL IS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING PROPOSAL

Application affecting Bridgdown Conservation Area CH/14/0014

34 North Street, Bridgdown

Change of use from shop (A1) to hot food takeaway/café (A3/A5)

All applications may be inspected at the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Application affecting a listed building and Rugeley Town Centre Conservation Area

Applications relating to Rugeley and Bretonton may also be inspected at the Rugeley Area Housing Office, Anson Street, Rugeley


The Council has published a Service Charter for publicity and information about planning applications and a Code of Conduct for the Planning Process both of which are obtainable from Council Offices free of charge.

If you wish to make comments about any of the above proposals you should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG by 13/02/2014

Please include a daytime telephone number in your reply and quote the appropriate reference when calling or writing.

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

public & legal notices



ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(A) THE A5 TRUNK ROAD (HIGHAM, WARWICKSHIRE) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION AND PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the A5 Trunk Road at Higham in the County of Warwickshire to allow resurfacing and maintenance work to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to -

- impose a 40 miles per hour speed restriction on -
 - the northbound carriageway of the A5 from a point 350 metres east of its roundabout junction with Higham Lane and Nuneaton Lane at Higham to a point 350 metres west of its junction with the A444 Weddington Lane; and
 - the southbound carriageway of the A5 from a point 350 metres west of its junction with the A444 Athertonstone Road to a point 350 metres east of its roundabout junction with Higham Lane and Nuneaton Lane;
- impose a 10 miles per hour speed restriction on the lengths of A5 described in 1) above when signs indicating "convoy working" are being displayed;
- prohibit vehicles with a width exceeding 3 metres from entering or proceeding in the lengths of A5 described in 1) above;
- close the gap in the central reservation of the A5 situated 580 metres west of its junction with Mira Drive;
- close the layby situated adjacent to the westbound carriageway of the A5 approximately 550 metres west of its junction with Mira Drive;
- prohibit vehicles from entering or leaving the A5 at its junctions with -
 - Wood Lane;
 - Weddington Lane; or
 - Atherstone Road;

The work is expected to start on Saturday 8 February 2014 and will continue for approximately eleven months. The Order will come into force Friday 7 February 2014.

Vehicles being used by the emergency services will be exempt from the closures, prohibitions and speed restrictions. Vehicles being used by special forces will be exempt from the speed restrictions and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures and prohibitions. Diversion routes will be well signed.

For more information, please contact Kevin Lang, a Project Manager on behalf of the Highways Agency on 01483 397896.

Paul Siddall, a Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

MICHAEL DAVID BROMLEY (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 8 Bamfield Way Hazeldean Staffordshire WS12 2PR, who died on 18/12/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 28/03/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ANSONS LLP
Commerce House Ridings Park
Eastern Way Cannock
Staffordshire WS11 7FJ
T399691

UMMA DEVI RAGGOO (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 49 St Aidan's Road Cannock Staffordshire WS11 4PH, who died on 30/12/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 28/03/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ANSONS LLP
Commerce House Ridings Park
Eastern Way Cannock
Staffordshire WS11 7FJ
T399693

Notice is hereby given that Nina Hinton of R&N Enforcement Services Limited, 4raven close, Cannock, Staffordshire ws12 4fq, has applied to the Judge at Stafford County Court for a Bailiffs Certificate. Any person who knows reason why Nina Hinton is not a fit and proper person to be granted a Certificate should write to the Court Manager at Stafford County Court, Combined Street, Victoria Square, Stafford ST16 2QQ before 17th February 2014

10 Personals

personal

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5 GENT, 67

WLTM lady three or four years younger or older than myself. A genuine and honest lady would suit me.

If you would like to have someone who likes a lot of fun and feel content to be with them That's Me!

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general

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inc. 14 Day FREE Re-test
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- ✓ ENGINE MANAGEMENT DIAGNOSIS

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UMS

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UNIVERSAL MOTOR SERVICES
TEL 01543 509174

Email: universalmotorservices@yahoo.co.uk Unit 16, Martindale Industrial Estate, Hawks Green, Cannock WS11 7XN



Cars £29.95
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David Ross Ltd

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MOT £29.50
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VEHICLES WANTED NOW

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- Part Worn Tyres All Sizes Available from £12.50
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TREATMENT
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DESTRUCTION FOR THE D.V.L.A. WITH EVERY
VEHICLE COLLECTED

SPECIALISTS IN BREAKING FORD VEHICLES
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SCRAP CARS WANTED

FREE COLLECTION OF SCRAP
ALL MAKES & MODELS

FORD TRANSITS WANTED
MINIMUM £350 PAID

Vans, Lorries & Trailers GOOD PRICES PAID
Big Cars £200 Paid ANY CAR CONSIDERED

NEW STOCK IN DAILY

07831 209821

Special Offer

Car MOT £29.95 with this advert



Free retests with no
time limits

Prompt appointments

- Free fluid top up
- Free headlight adjustment
- Value service and MOT from £119.00 inc VAT
- Free tea and coffee while you wait
- Book your MOT test online at www.motcannock.co.uk
- Bookings at short notice
- Late appointments available if requested

Burdock Close, Hawks Green, Cannock
Open Monday - Friday 7.30am - 6.00pm Saturday 8.00am - 1.00pm



HAWKS GREEN
MOT Test Centre

www.motcannock.co.uk

Tel: 01543 578628

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(Vauxhall Specialists)

Second hand spares off the shelf

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- Electronic Engine Management and Airbag Fault Diagnostic Service

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LATE VAUXHALLS: Scrap, MOT failures or
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VAUXHALL PARTS ALSO WANTED

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Mobile: 07956 91287

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TURN YOUR SCRAP METAL INTO CASH... NOW!



Cars, vans, iron, steel,
copper, brass, lead,
alloys, cable, elec
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WEIGH & PAY
££££££

- DVLA cert of destruction issued
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CHASE CAR & METAL RECYCLING

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Tyres

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TYRE BAY

Tyres from
£5

New and Part Worn Tyres
Brand New Tyre Bay
New Premises

**WE WON'T BE BEATEN
ON PRICE OR QUALITY**

Most tyres nearly
new **FREE FITTING**
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Advert must be
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07973 842815 01543 428080

Trent Valley Tyres Ltd

WE OFFER A 24HR CALL OUT SERVICE
FOR ACCOUNT CUSTOMERS ON REQUEST

MOBILE TYRE FITTING

WE WILL CALL AT YOUR HOME OR WORK PLACE AND CHANGE YOUR TYRE

Even take old tyres away



Experience the
performance -
discover the value

ALL ROUND
ULTRA HIGH
PERFORMANCE

Champiro HPX
Specially designed to
perform superbly
on wet and dry roads
whilst maintaining
precise control at
high speed

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Provides a smooth ride
under high speed driving
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outstanding wet handling
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The Champiro 228
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resistance and premium
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- CARAVAN TYRES
- 4x4 TYRES
- EXHAUSTS, ETC
- BATTERIES
- VAN TYRE SPECIALISTS
- TRUCK TYRES
- TRACTOR TYRES
- ATV TYRES



6 Brick Kiln Way, The Levels Industrial Estate, Brereton, Rugeley

www.trentvalleytyres.co.uk email: neil@trentvalleytyres.co.uk

Free tea/coffee whilst you wait

Monday-Friday 8.30 am-5.30 pm, Saturday 8.30 am-1.00 pm

Tel: 01889 586666 / 01889 582771



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towards your
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Local Specialists



Aerials

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FREEVIEW AERIALS
FREESAT
SKY
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KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489 @

TAYLOR attractive very busty curly black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311 @

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253 @

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTm broadminded male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259 @

BLACK female, 45, seeking older gent, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955 @

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTm loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419 @

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263 @

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109 @

ANITA very attractive black female, seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505 @

HI I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933 @

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285 @

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615 @

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

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62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 34106

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853 @

MICHELLE lonely singleton, fit/slender, passionate, easy-going seeks male to cook for and generally spoil rotten in exchange for great companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407501 @

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PAUL 55, 6ft 2ins, intelligent, down to earth, kind, genuine, honest, seeks female, 50-60 for relationship, many hobbies. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409783 @

DAVE 54, seeking female, 40-51 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409839 @

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273

MARK 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair, honest, loving, caring, down to earth, likes sport, music, cinema, meals out, seeking special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409803 @

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Season is on the turn for Villans says Vlaar

RON VLAAR has insisted Villa's season is turning but warned the claret and blues they cannot afford to slip up.

The skipper believes there have been clear signs Villa are improving after an indifferent first half of the season.

Paul Lambert's side are 10th in the Premier League but have come under fire for their style and were dumped out of the FA Cup by League One Sheffield United.

Despite their mid-table position they are still just six points off the bottom of the table and Vlaar has urged Villa not to ease up.

He said: "You have to earn the momentum and work extra hard. December wasn't an easy one for us but in January we won at Sunderland, lost to Arsenal and have now got a point at Anfield. That's not bad. We have to go on and use it as a boost to move forward."

"There's nothing we can do about the break (to Albion next week). We have to produce the same performance again."

Freemans' three good for the win

Lichfield & Walsall District Football League Premier

Freemans FC 3 Erdington 2

League One
Burntwood Star 3 AC Lions 3; Cannock Wood 3 Boney Hay 2; Loughorn FC 8 Stonnall FC 2

League Two
Duke of Wellington 1 Swan FC 3; Green Rock Tavern 1 Longdon Chet 2; Paradise FC 1 Shire Oak 1; Ros Park 1 Trent Valley Rovers 7

League Three
Dog FC 1 Alma FC 1; Turnpike 0 Sheffield FC 2

League Four
Wych Elm FC 4 Bowman FC 2; Dosthill Rangers 0 Oak Park Rangers 3

Lichfield Challenge Cup Round Two
Eximius Warriors 1 Aldridge Town 3; Walsall Phoenix 3 Prince of Wales 4

Danny Donovan Cup Round One
B-hills Comm. 6 Pelsall Villa Colts 4 aet & pen

H Boston Cup Round One
Boatmans Rest 3 Hussey Arms 10

Martial arts juniors have Midas touch



EMHAA fight squad celebrate their success

MEMBERS of a Chase martial arts club came back with a haul of gold from a recent competition.

The Emil Herzberg Martial Arts Academy (EHMAA) fight squad claimed eight wins and two runner-up places at the Wimpers Junior Fight Show, taking on youngsters from clubs in Redditch, Kidderminster and Swindon.

Throughout the evening there were 20 bouts with nine EHMAA fighters taking part.

"What a brilliant display of skill and determination we saw in the ring from all of our competitors," said Emil Herzberg, who runs the academy.

Reece Payne, aged five, and 13-year-old

Martial arts

Grace Partridge both made their kickboxing debuts and won their fights convincingly.

Grace and Kayleigh Goodwin both then stepped up to take a second, demanding bout.

Winners on the night were Reece Payne, Thomas-Drew Payne, Oliver Partridge, Grace Partridge, Kayleigh Goodwin twice, Dominic Price and Leo Manifold, while Grace Partridge, William Smart and Jessica Goodwin all returned with a silver under their belts.

"Our fighters train week in, week out giving their all at each and every training

session. We train every week working on different sparring and fitness drills with all the EHMAA team of instructors and volunteers.

"Without everyone's help at the academy this wouldn't be possible," Emil added.

"We'd also like to thank the fighters' parents for their continued support to the academy."

The EHMAA fight squad are now looking for sponsors to help with the cost of competing and new uniforms.

For more details, contact Emil Herzberg on 07875074446, visit www.ehmaa.co.uk, e-mail. Contact@ehmaa.co.uk or check out www.facebook.com/ehmaa.

Sponsors appeal as training run starts

CANNOCK Cricket Club start their indoor training on Monday and the club is seeking new sponsors for the 2014 season.

The sessions are open to 11 juniors of all abilities. Under-9s and 11s, from school years two to six, train at Kingsmead Technology College, Kings Avenue, Hednesford, from 6-7pm.

Training for under-13s, school years seven and eight, is at the upper sports hall at Cannock Chase High School, Hednesford Road, from 6-7.15pm, followed by coaching for under-15s and 16s, school years nine to 11, from 7.15-8.30pm.

New senior players are also invited to training, on Mondays from 8.30-10pm at Cannock Chase High.

All sessions will run weekly until Easter and cost £3 each. All kit is supplied for those who need it.

Coaching will be given by some of the 18 ECB qualified coaches, who all have full CRB clearance.

This coming season, the club has four teams playing their Saturday cricket in the Staffs Club Cricket Championship.

On Sundays, they play in the Lichfield & District League, and run junior teams at under-9s through to under-15s.

For more information, contact Graham Machin on 07836 371 043.

Three-point margin for the Storers

Indoor Bowls League Division One

N Newey & L Hazlehurst 21, D & G Storer 18; A & G Parsons 12, K Handley & D Chester 21; M Evans & L Pritchatt 21, C Marshman & B Preece 18; L Simonczyk & P Kelly 21, D Hayward & V Gray 13; A Preece & F Skatham 16, S Edwards & D Murray 21; L Simonczyk & P Kelly 18, D & G Storer 21.

Division Two

R Worthington & P Lines 18, T Partridge & B Stacey 21; A Chambers & D Alcock 12, D Hurcombe & S Powis 21; S & C Baird 16, R Worthington & P Lines 21; C Everitt & S Edwards 9, T Partridge & B Stacey 21; A Alcock & O Evans 21, M & P Colbourne 20; L Cavill & M Bardsley 21, G Garbett & B Taylor 11.

Status quo as bonus point win is recorded

Eccleshall 10 Burntwood 29
IT was a case of as you were on Saturday as all three teams behind league leaders Veseyans recorded bonus wins to remain locked on the same league points.

Burntwood ran in five tries altogether in a stop-start contest at Eccleshall. The visitors, with skipper Ian Jones returning at scrum half, had the better of the opening 10 minutes against the wind helped by the hosts conceding a couple of early penalties.

A final warning was issued to the home skipper for persistent infringements as a penalty award was advanced 10 metres but Will Peach's attempt at goal fell short from 35 metres.

The Eccleshall number six was yellow carded for a dangerous tackle and their right winger was forced off with a shoulder injury.

The resulting penalty was kicked to touch for Jack Neal to win possession.

A rolling maul developed which tied in the home defence and county U-20s, front row player Luke Rookyard peeled off to run in unopposed inside the 22 for the first try.

It was then Burntwood's turn to infringe to give the chance for Eccleshall to kick deep into visitors' territory.

A close range line out and scrum tested their defence. Finally the hosts worked an overlap for a try wide out on the right to level the scores.

The home side then conceded more penalties to help Burntwood's cause against the wind. With 35 minutes gone Peach found the right touchline with a penalty

Rugby

award. Good handling found Neal back right and he forced his way to the line.

With the wind at their backs it didn't take long for Burntwood to pull away in the second period.

Good play by Neal from the restart allowed Brett Taylor to punt deep into the home half. When Eccleshall tried to kick clear the ball was run back with forwards and backs linking for Rookyard to find Lloyd Shelley with a good pass for a try. Peach converted.

On 59 minutes Jones received possession and he freed Ben Holt for a clean run for the bonus point try. Holt was sin binned after 54 minutes for one penalty too many by his side.

Burntwood lost Neal to a yellow card after 70 minutes. Eccleshall were quick to take advantage of more numbers in the scrum for a try.

An interception by the returned Holt saw him cut between the last two opponents for a try which Peach converted.



Zak Shingler in the thick of the action as Burntwood faced Eccleshall in an away match which went their way

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165.70-13	£32	195.65-15	£40	195.50-15	£40	225.45-17	£49
165.70-14	£34	185.60-14	£36	195.45-15	£43	205.50-17	£50
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History as Littleton go top of the league

Premier League
THE Littleton's 4-1 beating of Red White & Blue puts them top of the Cannock Chase League Premier Division for the first ever time in their history.
Goals from Ricky Clifton, Matty Allport, Tom Kent and John Austin bagged the three points.

Brereton Town played out a 0-0 draw with Belt Road
Division One
Bar Sport won their third game of the season beating Chase Spartans 3-1 to climb off the bottom. Drill of Burntwood drew 3-3 with AFC Jubilee.

Division Two
Title favourites Victoria thrashed Ascot Tavern 12-2 to go 12 points clear. David Battison scored five goals, Dominic Oliver and Dwain Donovan scored hat-tricks with one goal from Lee Charles.
Lea Hall beat Trafalgar 4-3

Division Three
AFC Colliers beat Winding Wheel 3-0 to climb to third with goals from Darrell Bradley, Andy Belcher and Dan Craney. Railway drew 2-2 with King George as did Wyrley Juniors against Bridgtown Social.

Cannock Charity Cup – Round Three
Olly's knocked out Essington 6-1 with a hat-trick each for Dwain Wilkes and Dan Bolas.

Crystal Fountain knocked out Jubilee 5-1 with both Ryan Tongue and Jake West hitting doubles.

Hawkins Inex knocked out AFC Slade 4-1 with goals from John Cornfields, Luke Taylor, Ryan Downs and Scott Sandland.

Aero Taxis Cup Quarter Finals

Pear Tree fought back from two goals down to knock out Soldiers 3-2, the winning goal coming from Mark Sydes.

Hen House knocked out Woody's 4-1 thanks to a double from Lee Garrington and a goal each for Jack Connolly and Brad Martin.

Hoolahan wants out

VILLA'S hunt for Wes Hoolahan took another twist after the Norwich midfielder slapped in a transfer request.

The Canaries immediately rejected the midfielder's demand.

Everything is hockey with ladies winning

Cannock Ladies 1sts 4 Sutton Coldfield Ladies 1sts 0
CANNOCK continued their winning ways with a convincing win over hockey league rivals Sutton.

The penultimate friendly saw four goals fly past Sutton in another fantastic team performance.

Goals from Amy Booth, Holly Turbill, Sarah Martin and Lucy Spencer nailed a victory from a team full of confidence and itching for the promotion spot.

Cannock Ladies 2nds 0 Birmingham University Ladies 5

Cannock started strong, but were unable to break down Birmingham's defence.

When the first goal came it was for the opposition from a short corner. Cannock continued to battle but conceded another just before half time.

Continuing to work as a team Cannock had a number of chances but were unable to convert.

With the final score Cannock realise they still have some work to do before the restart of the league in two weeks.

Cannock Ladies 3rds 0 W-ton & Tettenhall Ladies 1sts 1

Hockey

Cannock lost their opening league game of 2014 in a tight match that could have gone either way as they slipped to a 1-0 defeat.

This was Cannock's first defeat in the league since the end of October 2013 after a run of five wins and two draws in their last seven games.

The last time they played Wolves they were outclassed in an 8-1 defeat however, this game showcased the hard effort that has been put in by all involved.

Despite the defeat Cannock remain in an impressive fourth position and entertain unbeaten league leaders Bloxwich at Chase Park this Saturday.

Cannock Ladies 4ths 4 Barton Ladies 2nds 3

After going 2-0 down early in the first half they Cannock brought it back to be drawing at half time.

Cannock scored two more in the second half taking the score to 4-2. Barton scored last with a well-placed shot from a short corner.

Cannock Ladies 5ths 4 W-ton & Tettenhall Ladies 3rds 2

Cannock started the New Year well, with a win against Wolves and Tettenhall.

An important three points which moved the girls to fifth position in the league.

If you're interested in joining or would like to know more about our club we would love to hear from you, check out our website www.cannockhockey.org.

Cannock ladies train on a Monday night 6.30pm – 7.30pm at Chase Park.

Potential players are more than welcome to come along and give it a go.

A Wellecomme double sees Scholars progress

Walsall Senior Cup Quarter-Final Chasetown 2 Walsall 0

CHASETOWN reached the semi-final of the Walsall Senior Cup – keeping their hopes alive on three cup fronts this season and extending their unbeaten run to seven games since Christmas.

An end-to-end first half saw goal chances a plenty with Chasetown keeper Ryan Price making two early saves to prevent the Saddlers from taking the lead.

Firstly, he palmed a Wes Rush effort over the bar from the edge of the area and then got down low to save from Kieran Morris.

The Scholars were up for this game though and Nick Wellecomme tested Shane Lewis with a zipping low shot which the Walsall keeper did well to push wide for a corner, while Jono Gould in his first start since a serious injury last April was causing the visitors all sorts of problems with his pace and fired a shot narrowly wide of the upright.

It was tit-for-tat as both sides strived for the opener. Walsall number nine Danny Griffiths, who had been on loan at Chasetown, almost returned with a goal as he fired against the bar.

Then, Gould's low shot looked like it had got a touch from Lewis onto the outside of his right-hand post.

The home supporters were baying for a penalty as Paul Sullivan went down under a strong challenge from Ben George with the referee deeming sufficient contact with the ball to

Football

award a corner kick. As the second half progressed, the experience in the Chasetown ranks began to take control over the Walsall youngsters and it was no surprise when they took the lead. A precise pass into the path of Wellecomme saw the experienced striker delicately lob the ball over the stranded Lewis.

Two minutes later, Wellecomme netted his second, reacting quicker than the visiting defence and keeper to steer a low shot under Lewis' body.

Now in torrential rain, Wellecomme was denied a five minute hat-trick as Lewis kept out a low shot.

To Walsall's credit, they kept playing the right way but a well-marshalled home defence restricted the Saddlers to long range effort on their way to the club's eighth clean sheet of the campaign.

The Scholars now await their semi-final opponents, which could be from Sutton Coldfield, Boldmere St Michaels or Rushall Olympic.



Scholars' Luke Bottomer goes in for the tackle during the match against Walsall which saw his side into the semis

Pitching in for an FA trophy reunion

SUPPORTERS of the Pitmen are organising a 10-year reunion to reunite the FA Trophy team.

On Friday, May 23, a decade on from a sunny day at Villa Park, the Hednesford Town Football Club Supporters Association is inviting Pitmen supporters, young and old, to remember one of the most remarkable days in the club's history.

May 23, 2004 was the day, after The Pitmen caused a shock by disposing of conference high-flyers Aldershot Town in the semi-finals.

Current Hednesford assistant manager, Chris Brindley, scored from distance to grab a stunning 3-2 victory for his team against bookies' favourites Canvey Island.

The 5,000 or so supporters who made the short trip to Aston will never forget the magical atmosphere.

With several of that squad already confirmed to attend, tickets will soon be available from the commercial office,

Phone 01543 422870, or go through the club through Twitter or Facebook. HTFCSA members' tickets will cost £5 with those for non-members at £7. It will take place in the Chase Suite and include food.

Top dogs strengthen their place

Walsall 10 Lichfield 39
LEAGUE leaders Lichfield consolidated their top of the table position with, what was eventually a comfortable victory over their Staffordshire rivals.

Both teams had early chances, but the respective defences held their ground. A Josh Massey penalty gave the visitors a 15th minute lead, but Mitch Carless levelled within two minutes.

Walsall, to their credit created some good scoring positions and it was unfortunate that errors deprived them of possible tries.

The visitors however, scored two tries late in the half. Scrum half Evans and Greg Massey cutting through the home defence.

Evans got his second and winger Fielding also touched down.

Meanwhile lock forward Squires was driven over and Massey was successful with two more conversions.



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Time on bench is therapy for Mal

MAL BENNING claims time on the bench has made him mentally stronger ahead of a possible Walsall return on Saturday.

The 20-year-old left-back is on standby for a first start in almost five months at Notts County, should Andy Taylor fail to recover from a knee injury.

Benning has made just three substitute appearances since losing his starting place to Taylor following the 3-0 home defeat to Preston back in August.

But he impressed after replacing Taylor during the second half of Saturday's 1-1 draw with Brentford and says he is more than ready to step into the breach if required.

"Of course I'm ready if needed," he said. "It's been frustrating being on the bench but at the same time Tayls has been in great form."

"I've had to wait. I'm not sure what his injury is but we shall see."

"The past few months have made me learn, mentally, the ups and downs of the game."

"You've got to be prepared for the bad times as well as the good and I think the last few months have helped."

"Obviously it's frustrating but at the same time, you've got to take it on the chin."

"I've learned a lot sitting on the sidelines and watching."

Wolves' eye is on Tomlin

WOLVES have enquired about £3m-rated Peterborough forward Lee Tomlin as head coach Kenny Jackett admitted various bids had been made for players.

Tomlin, who has scored nine goals this season and often plays in the attacking midfield role Jackett has identified, is the latest target to emerge this transfer window.

Peterborough rejected three bids for stockily-built Tomlin from Celtic in the summer rising to £2.5m, interest which is said to have turned the head of the forward, who submitted a transfer request.

And with Tomlin into the last 18 months of his contract, the former Rushden and Diamonds man has now been made available by Posh. The London Road club would be reluctant to sell their star player to a promotion rival, hence the inflated asking price.

Hayes battle back to claim all three points

Heath Hayes 3 Gornal Athletic 2

HAYES came back from two goals down to clinch the points in this crucial Midland Alliance relegation battle.

Their pre-match plans were thrown into turmoil just before kick off as Keeper Adam Jenkins had to withdraw due to a family emergency. Ben Maddox donned the keeper's gloves and Jack Arrowsmith came in for a league debut.

Gornal threw everything at the home side in the opening exchanges and Richard Smith fired them into a fifth minute lead.

They then forced a series of corners and

Football

had the home side well and truly on the rack but failed to add to their tally.

The home side rallied with Mitch Teece and Chris Geldart going close but were caught out by a quick break from the visitors and Ravi Sangha pounced on the loose ball to double his side's lead after Maddox had done well to save Ben Evans' strike.

Gornal keeper Luke Stevens then did brilliantly to push a goal-bound effort from Dave Waple on to the bar and maintain his side's lead at the break.

Hayes made sweeping changes for the second half with Adam Langley, Lloyd Dunnett and Alex Scott being introduced into the fray. They got the start they wanted forcing a corner from which Tom Baggett headed powerfully home.

This inspired the home side who now began to play with more belief typified by Baggett who broke up an attack on the edge of his own box, strode forward with the ball before playing in Adam Langley who beat three defenders before firing in a shot which Stevens dived full length to push away, the ball falling to Baggett who had continued

his run to fire home to the delight of the crowd.

Hayes were now well on top and Waple and Teece both had good chances to put them in front whilst Danny Cruddington had a free kick well saved by Maddox and then shaved the cross bar as Gornal rallied.

The all-important winner came in the 82nd minute when Dan Scragg played in Dave Waple who coolly fired home from 12 yards. Tempers became a little frayed in the closing stages and with five minutes remaining Gornal's James Parmeter received his marching orders.

Banks in tribute to star Bert

WORLD Cup winner Gordon Banks paid a heartfelt tribute to Bert Williams, describing him as the most agile goalkeeper ever.

Regarded as Wolves' greatest keeper, Williams passed away at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital on Sunday, surrounded by his family. He was 93.

Williams was England's oldest living international who played at the 1950 World Cup, winning 24 caps in a career that saw him help Wolves become one of the top teams in the world, claiming the FA Cup in 1949 and the League title in 1954.

In his 420 appearances for Wolves from 1945-57, he inspired people such as 1966 hero Banks, now aged 76.

"Bert has to be in the top group of goalkeepers to have played the game," Banks said. "He should be remembered as the most agile goalkeeper ever."

"He really could leap across that goal like no-one else - I've never seen anyone else come up to his standards."

"I've seen great goalkeepers like the Russian Lev Yashin, but Bert was smaller and had this extra leap to get across the goal and cover the top corner of the net - he was absolutely brilliant."

"Wolves were a really great side at the time, not just in this country but throughout Europe."

"He played for England at a World Cup, so his standing was very high in the game," he added.

"He had a great name in the game but he deserved it - he was brave and he was a great goalkeeper."

The pair became firm friends in recent years and Banks used to travel from his home in Crewe to Bert's house in Shifnal.

DURRELL THE HERO IN DRAMATIC FINISH

Bradford Park Avenue 1 Hednesford Town 2
IT HAS been said that this Hednesford Town team never know when they are beaten.

This was certainly demonstrated in the most dramatic of circumstances last Saturday as they earned all three points in what would turn out to be a memorable afternoon in West Yorkshire.

Despite leading for most of the game through a Kris Taylor strike, it seemed The Pitmen would be pegged back right at the death following an equaliser for the home side in the third minute of stoppage time.

However, up stepped Elliott Durrell with a goal of the season contender less than 30 seconds later, to earn what could well be a vital three points come the end of April.

Threatened

It was the home side who threatened first when Danny Glover broke clear of the Hednesford back line, but he blazed his shot well over the bar from just inside the penalty area.

The visitors responded well though and soon had a chance of their own as John Disney played in Neil Harvey, only for Bradford goalkeeper John Lamb to palm away his shot on goal.

Hednesford kept up the pressure and after Durrell had seen a low driven effort saved, the opening goal duly arrived.

From the resulting save, Jamey Osborne was fouled on the edge of the Bradford box and up stepped Taylor to curl home a beautiful free kick into the top corner.

Seven minutes later Town were almost two goals to the

Football

good. From a corner won by Harvey, Taylor saw his driven effort cleared off the line by Adam Clayton.

Back came Avenue and Hednesford were indebted to Dan Crane for keeping them in front as he superbly tipped an Alex Davidson shot behind for a corner.

As the game ticked over into stoppage time this was when the real drama arrived.

In the third of four additional minutes the home side eventually broke Hednesford's disciplined back-line as Ross Gardner found room inside the box and his low effort from 12 yards deceived everyone and ended up in the bottom corner of the net.

Town would not be beaten though and from the resulting kick-off the ball was played to Durrell who decided to take things upon himself to win it.

After driving forward and dribbling past several Avenue players he calmly slotted home left-footed from the edge of the box to send the travelling Pitmen supporters and the away bench wild in celebration.

Hednesford make the short trip to Solihull Moors this Saturday, 3pm kick-off.



Jamey Osborne finds he outnumbered on this occasion during the away clash with Bradford Park

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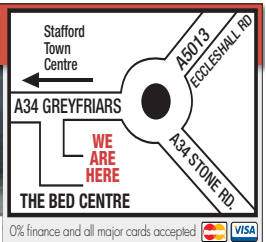
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